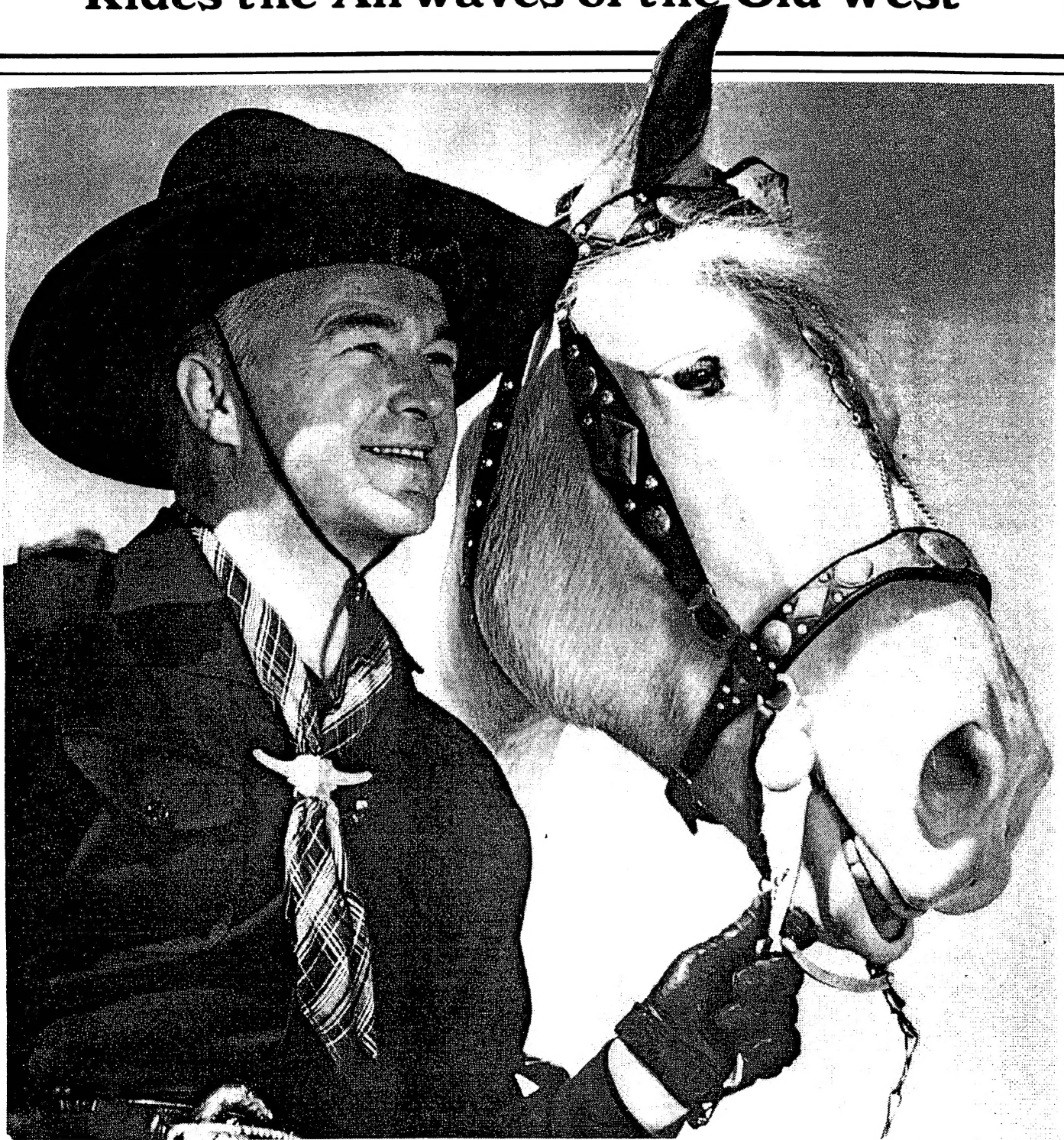


HOPALONG CASSIDY

Rides the Airwaves of the Old West



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Hopalong Cassidy Rides the Airwaves of the Old West

Compiled by Bernard A. Drew

It's Hopalong Cassidy! [fanfare] With action and suspense out of the old West comes the most famous hero of them all, Hopalong Cassidy, starring William Boyd... The jingle of the silver spurs heralds that fabulous figure of the early West, Hopalong Cassidy, the same Hoppy you cheer in motion pictures with the same California you've laughed at a hundred times in your local theater. These famous partners come riding into radio just as you've asked for them. William Boyd as Hopalong Cassidy and Andy Clyde as California....
-- announcer's introduction to *Dead Man's Hand*

ONE OF THE all-time most popular heroes of Western fiction and cinema, Hopalong Cassidy was created by Illinois-born Clarence E. Mulford (1883-1956). Mulford was working as a municipal clerk in Brooklyn, New York, when the first of his Bar-20 yarns appeared in *Outing* magazine in 1905. The stories eventually stretched to eighteen books. They form a sprawling saga of Western lore featuring characters William "Hopalong" Cassidy, Red Connors, Tex Ewalt, Johnny Nelson, Buck Peters, Mesquite Jenkins and the rest.

Mulford was a stickler for accuracy. "Well, you have to be called down only once to learn -- if you really want to learn," Mulford told Max R. Grossman. "My first Western story I wrote entirely on the basis of reading and what friends told me. It contained inaccuracies. Naturally. And I determined then and there never to record as a fact any item which I couldn't check." His research was done, not in the real West, however, but in thousands of periodicals and books. He dutifully made notes on index cards; in later years he donated the 17,000 cards to the Library of Congress. Mulford finally visited the west in 1924.

It was 1925 before Mulford felt comfortable enough with his writing income to quit his day job. From 1907-23, his twelve books then in print had sold 490,967 copies and earned him royalties of \$46,961.18 -- no small sum given the times. Newly married, he and his bride Eva Wilkinson moved to Fryeburg, Maine, in 1926 and he continued to write and enjoy hobbies such as model building, ham radio and target shooting.

Mulford had long hoped to see his Bar-20 stories translated onto the silver screen, as Zane Grey's books had. William Farnum appeared in a celluloid version of Mulford's *The Orphan* in 1922. And that was it until Mulford struck a deal in 1935 with producer Harry "Pop" Sherman (1884-1952) for a series of Cassidy pictures. Sherman cast actor William Boyd in the hero's role.

Boyd (1898-1972) was born in Ohio. He worked at a variety of jobs before appearing as a film extra in a Cecil B. DeMille picture in 1919. He became a minor romantic lead, until a case of mistaken identity -- another actor with the same name was arrested and some papers mistakenly published Boyd's picture with the stories -- brought his career to a grinding stop. The Cassidy series represented a new chance for Boyd. As the years went by, Boyd absorbed the Hopalong persona. *Look* described him as "silver-haired, and ageless. Tall (6 feet), big (174 pounds) and handsome, he has a booming laugh and blue eyes that twinkle until they look down the sights of one of his old .45's. Then they grow hard, as every kid knows they should."

"Hopalong is a simple man, friendly and informal," the actor said in *Life*. "He's very intimate. It's all psychology. I don't treat

the kids as kids -- they don't like that -- I play to the adults. That pleases everybody..."

Mulford was disappointed with the movies. "Why, it's absolute nonsense," Mulford told Rudolph Elie. "If Hoppy ever showed up in a saloon in duds like that they'd shoot him down on sight. Hoppy was a cripple, but I taught him everything he knew. I taught him to take cover, I taught him to be brave without being foolhardy, I taught him how to handle liquor, I even taught him how to be decent with women...."

Boyd told Hollywood columnist Hedda Hopper, "I simply appropriated a name and did what I think Bill Boyd would have done had he lived in the west during Hoppy's era -- the 1890s. Thus Hopalong Cassidy is Bill Boyd. I took Bill Boyd and made him into Hopalong Cassidy."

Hopper observed, "If you'll compare the Hoppy of the Clarence Mulford books with Boyd's screen characterization, you'll see that he's right. The original Hoppy is aptly described as 'a 40-year-old, weather-beaten, part-time range detective with all the glamor of a beat-up saddle-bag.'"

The writer "bore Mr. Boyd no hard feelings," reported the *New York Times* in Mulford's obituary notice. "He admired Mr. Boyd, as a matter of fact, but just wanted it known that the old-time Hopalong was for adults, while the new, shinier model was for children. Speaking of the two Hopalongs a few years ago, Mr. Mulford said: 'Mine grew up in his environment, in Texas, in the Seventies and Eighties. He was the result of his environment. It shaped him. He drank whisky when he wanted to; he swore; he gambled; he bought clothes in a frontier store; his boots were bought in a frontier shoe store and not handmade by some New York or Hollywood bootmaker... In his gunplay he had the reflexes of Wild Bill Hickok or John Wesley Hardin... I have a great deal of admiration for Boyd's accomplishments. Let Bill have his Hopalong, I have mine, and I wouldn't swap my Hopalong for any other cowpuncher known to man.'"

After Sherman's series ran its course, Boyd scraped up the financial resources -- about \$350,000 -- to buy rights to the character. He made another dozen pictures. Then, traveling three times to Maine to visit Mulford, Boyd secured the television and radio rights which Mulford's farsighted agent Daniel Nye had withheld in the original movie contract.

Boyd took Hoppy to television, editing and rebroadcasting the old movies. When they proved immensely popular, he filmed new shows. Noted *Time* in November 1950, "Last week 63 television stations were pumping out his old movies, 152 radio stations were carrying his voice, 155 newspapers were printing his new Hopalong Cassidy comic strip, and 108 licensed manufacturers were turning out Hopalong Cassidy products at the rate of \$70 million a year."

Boyd's big investment gamble paid off. Hopalong Cassidy became one of the first major hits of the television era. According to *Life*, Boyd that year earned \$110,000 in licensing the old movies to television. The radio program, "already recorded in advance up to next November... goes out to over 500 stations and brings Boyd about \$50,000. Hoppy phonograph records, comic strips in 80 papers and Bill Boyd comic books are paying off at an approximate \$60,000 a year...."

Mulford grumped about Boyd's Hoppy, but he also earned more money than ever from his share of royalties. He had quit writing in 1946, complaining that too much of his income was going to Uncle Sam in taxes. When Hoppy became a hit on radio and television, a writer named Louis L'Amour was brought in to write four new Hopalong novels; they were published under the Tex Burns byline, first in *Hopalong Cassidy Western Magazine*, then in hardcover books.

"I guess you don't know Hopalong Cassidy, mister. Adventure's his bread, excitement's his butter, and danger, why to him that's like strawberry jam to top it off."

-- California Carlson in *Cleanup of Caribou Mesa*

HOPALONG CASSIDY first rode onto the radio in a 1941 dramatization over New York City's WABC, a one-time effort which apparently hasn't survived.

"I found it interesting," Mulford wrote to Nye. "I naturally hope there are more of them."

Mulford's agent worked actively to land a sustaining series, possibly over NBC. But it wasn't until Boyd took over the Cassidy property for television that the radio market was exploited. Nye secured for Mulford a \$3,250 royalty per thirteen-segment grouping of tales.

One hundred and four original segments eventually aired.

As early as July 1946, Paul F. Kneeland in an interview with Mulford noted that Cassidy was "slated to appear on a radio show soon." The shows were in the works, but as the following log shows, the producers waited until they had fifty-two episodes on disc before going on the air.

The program, with Boyd and Andy Clyde recreating their movie roles, was sponsored from its beginning in 1950 by General Foods both on Mutual, where it ran Sundays at 4 p.m., and later on CBS when that network picked up the show and continued it through 1952, on Saturdays at 8:30 p.m.

Hoppy appeared in print ads for Post Grape-Nuts Flakes and the manufacturer issued collector cards and a compass hat ring as premiums, according to Tom Tumbusch.

"The most fabulous success story in the entertainment world in recent years will have a new chapter added to it today at 4 p.m.," said the St. Petersburg (Fla.) *Times*, announcing the launch of the radio series, "...when Bill Boyd is starring in a new series of radio programs which will be heard each Sunday in Mutual's top-rated Sunday afternoon broadcast schedule. The radio broadcasts will be specially scripted to highlight the personality, mannerisms and unusual adventures of the steely-eyed, justice-dealing, gun-toting cowboy hero."

The radio program was produced and released by Walter White Jr.'s Commodore Productions. White was a former actor, married to Shirley Thomas. Commodore also produced *The Clyde Beatty Show* and, following *Cassidy*, made a *Tarzan* series which ran for a year on CBS beginning in 1952.

A Commodore Productions and Artists Inc. trade advertisement for *Hopalong Cassidy* touted: "You know it's commercial! Every man, woman and child in America knows the name Hopalong Cassidy and over sixty million of them are already loyal and faithful fans. Thirteen years of motion picture popularity behind it! (No other radio series can make this claim!) An action-packed film trailer will be shown in over 10,000 theaters announcing the radio series... Merchandising gimmicks! Promotional tie-ins! Stunts to make your listeners buy the product."

"Boyd had one of radio's perfect voices," according to radio historian John Dunning. "His voice could do anything -- comfort a bereaved widow one moment, scare the boots off her husband's killers the next. It was strong, virile, and straight to the point. And that Hoppy belly-laugh became famous. It was one of his trademarks, as indispensable as his all-black outfit and his horse Topper. Hopalong's companion in adventure was grizzled old California Carlson... played by Andy Clyde...."

As distinctive as Boyd's deep "haw, haw, haw" was Clyde's wheezy bray. Clyde (1892-1967) showed up in the movies as Carlson beginning in 1940. Carlson was not a Mulford character; he was created by Hollywood screenwriters. A native of Scotland, Clyde was a veteran comedy actor who appeared in his own series of shorts in the 1930s. "In his movie character, Mr. Clyde usually was the bewhiskered old geezer, homely, rather pathetic, but still lovable and something of a philosopher," said the *New York Times* in an obituary notice.

Clyde appeared in 75 of the 104 Cassidy shows. Radio Spirits packaged and marketed several programs in 1994 and identified Joe DuVal as playing Carlson for those shows, which were ones taped in 1949. Clyde likely had other commitments that year.

DuVal (ca. 1907-1966) was a gruff-voiced character actor seen or heard in many small roles, including some -- by the

"HOPALONG CASSIDY"



WILLIAM BOYD

YOU KNOW IT'S COMMERCIAL! Every man, woman and child in America knows the name "HOPALONG CASSIDY" and over sixty million of them are already loyal and faithful fans.

THIRTEEN YEARS OF MOTION PICTURE POPULARITY BEHIND IT! (NO OTHER RADIO SERIES CAN MAKE THIS CLAIM!) An action-packed film trailer will be shown in over 10,000 theatres announcing the radio series! "HOPALONG CASSIDY" comes to radio with a fabulous following . . . a ready made audience for sponsors!

GIVE THE LISTENERS QUALITY! The revolt against second-rate shows is spreading! Don't be caught with your ratings down . . . when you can buy "HOPALONG CASSIDY" and get the finest production, top writing, and custom tailored music!

MERCHANDISING GIMMICKS! PROMOTIONAL TIE-INS! Stunts to make your listeners BUY THE PRODUCT!

52-30 minute episodes available.
Rates and auditions on request.
(\$3 deposit on audition,
refunded on return of disc.)

Commodore Productions
and Artists, Inc.

1350 N. HIGHLAND, HOLLYWOOD 28, CALIF. — HO 8229

Promotional advertisement for the radio show
(Courtesy Mulford Room, Fryeburg, Maine, Library)

sounds of them -- on *Cassidy*. He appeared in twenty-four of twenty-six Cassidy shows recorded during this time; Boyd appeared solo in the other two. (He also showed up alone in three earlier shows.) DuVal's other radio credits include the role of FeFo the Giant on *The Cinnamon Bear*, a syndicated 1937 Christmas show regularly rebroadcast. He also appeared on *Damon Runyon Theater*, according to Dunning.

Clyde appeared in thirty-six Cassidy movies. After they ceased production, he continued to make one or two of his own comedy shorts through 1956 and he appeared in a dozen Whip Wilson oaters, 1949-51, as a character called Winks McGee, according to John R. Rutherford. He later played Culley Wilson in the *Lassie* television program, 1957-64.

Boyd when producing forty new television programs for syndication (they aired 19 September 1952 through 2 April 1954) apparently for budget reasons dropped Clyde as Carlson and brought in Edgar Buchanan to play sidekick Red Connors.

The radio program's music was provided by Albert Glasser, who is mentioned in final credits of later shows.

Writers, as identified in closing credits, are listed in the log as they were available to the compiler. Shows still in syndication sometimes delete the credits. Writers included Buckley Angell, whose film writing credits include the story for the movie *The Hired Gun* (1957); Dean Owen, who in the 1960s novelized television Westerns such as *Bonanza* and *The Virginian*; Robert T. Smith, who scripted *Perils of the Jungle* (1953); and Harold Swanton, who wrote for such radio shows as *The Fat Man* and scripted such movies as *Appointment With Murder* (1948), *The Hellions* (1962), *The Ballad of Josie* (1968) and *Rascal* (1969). Also writing stories were Irving Ashkenazie, John Barkley, Bill Bates, Robert Burdick, Gibson Scott Fox, Mel Gardner, Bill Holmes, Mike Jackson, Richard T. Parker, Herb Perdham, Tom Shirley, Howard Swart, Alan Whitser, Sidney Wirsky and Wayne Yarnell.

Several radio plays are rewrites of stories from the Boyd-produced Cassidy movies. A Swanton script, Show 025, for example, is based on the motion picture *Silent Conflict* (1948). In the movie, written by Charles Belden, it is Hoppy and California's junior pard, Lucky Jenkins (played by Rand Brooks), who falls under the spell of the medicine showman Doc Richards. Doc's niece here is called Renee, and she isn't privy to Doc's scheme. The movie, according to Francis Nevins in *The Films of Hopalong Cassidy*, owed a lot to the noir movie *Fear in the Night*, a 1947 picture about a man hypnotized into committing a crime, based on a story by writer Cornell Woolrich.

Also based on movies are Show 003 -- from Charles Belden's screenplay for *The Marauders* (1947); Show 029 -- from Belden's *Borrowed Trouble* (1948); and Show 039 -- from Doris Schroeder's script for *Sinister Journey* (1948).

"As usual your tongue's going at a high canter while your brain's still got the hobbles on."

-- Cassidy to Carlson in *Border of Nowhere*

"HOPPY, a character half conceived by writers, half by Boyd, didn't smoke, drink or swear," said the *New York Times* in an obituary notice. "He captured villains rather than shoot them. The responsibility of being a children's hero transformed Mr. Boyd, a one-time playboy, into a philanthropist devoted to strengthening the fiber of American youth."

"When you've got kids looking up to you," he would say, "when you've got parents saying what a wonderful guy Hoppy is, what do you do? You have to be a wonderful guy."

The radio writers relied on an audience familiar with the characters from television or film; they are only loosely sketched out. In the films, Hoppy was part of a trio which usually included a grumpy sidekick (such as George "Windy" Hayes) and a young, romantic lead. On radio, the permanent cast was slimmed down to just Hoppy and scruffy California Carlson. Oh, and Hoppy's horse Topper appeared as well -- though his only speaking part noted was in Show 097.

Hoppy is in charge of Buck Peters' Bar-20 ranch, apparently somewhere in Texas, though his adventures frequently draw him to other locations. Buck shows up in Show 070, a rare story set on the ranch. Hoppy and California venture as far away as California in Show 035 and New York City in Show 031. In Show 072, they're on a fishing vacation in New Mexico. In Show 079, they're in Arizona.

California is a longtime saddlemate of Hoppy's, as he says in Show 006: "Ain't we partners? Ain't I sided you clear from Pawnee Junction to Pecos since you was the greenest hand on the Bar-20? And when some outlaw run us up a tree -- who was hangin' right there from the next branch?" asks California.

Hoppy sometimes teases his pard. In Show 031, California has just bragged about a past achievement and says he values the truth as much as the next man. Hoppy replies, "You must value the truth a lot more, the way you economize on using it."

Other times, he finds California vital to solving a puzzle, as in Show 026, when Carlson in a rambling complaint mentions something that happened earlier, triggering the solution in Hoppy's mind. "The only trouble with your brain, California, is when it gets the answer it doesn't recognize it," Hoppy says. "I've got the critter roped and tied, you can throw a brand on 'em," California replies.

Cassidy knows he can rely on Carlson for support in tight spots. In Show 055, California warns Hoppy just before the cowboy is about to step into a potential ambush.

California loves to eat. In Show 093 he describes what he'd like for a meal: "Any old thing will do, Mrs. Wilson. Some meat and potatoes and coffee and a little cream and mebbe a piece of pie if you've got it... I could use some beans and a little hot gravy and mebbe a small plate of hot biscuits a drippin' with butter 'n honey 'n...."

"California is always empty," Hoppy apologizes.

In Show 085 California is so hungry, he grabs a bad man's steak off the stove; it comes in handy when Hoppy suggests he feed it to a snarling dog to quiet it.

California likes to sing -- as in shows 098 and 104 -- but it is painful to Hopalong's, and the listener's, ears.

We know from incidental remarks that Hopalong is a mature cowboy; in Show 002 he's thinking about settling down for a peaceful rest.

Hopalong is a better rifle shot than California; in Show 012 he picks off a badman from a distance, while in Show 001 California misses his shots, even though he intended to hit his target. By Show 073, though, California has improved his aim considerably and shoots the gun out of a badman's hand. California carries a Bowie knife, we learn in Show 089. California is smaller and lighter than Hoppy; thus he's the one boosted over the stockade in that same story.

Neither cowboy drinks anything stronger than sarsaparilla, and they are frequently ribbed by bartenders for their preference. California in Show 104 has a great fondness for popcorn. In Show 072, California chokes on a cigar; he's a non-smoker.

Neither cowboy has wed, they say in Show 031, though in Mulford's books, Cassidy is married for a brief time, until illness take his wife and young child. California briefly subscribed to a matrimonial bureau, we're told in Show 009. Old Annie Semple refuses to put a curse on California, in Show 092, saying he looks like someone already has. But the old saddle pard isn't without charm; Blanche Lavaseur takes a shining to California in Show 084. Hoppy briefly *thinks* he's married, in Show 078, when a Princess forces him to say "I do."

California is an older man; in Show 007, a character says he's not surprised that Hoppy is on his way to the museum, seeing as he's in the company of an old "fossil." In Show 085, Hoppy teases California for having false teeth. In another episode, Hopalong comments that California's never known a sick day in his life, but once he comes near a doctor, he starts groaning.

Hoppy is broadly educated. In Show 064, he spots a grammatical error in a note written in Spanish. In Show 067, he recognizes quotes from Shakespeare uttered by a drummer named Montague. Hoppy in Show 045 says he took piano lessons as a boy.

A briefly recurring character is ranch hand Johnny MacIver, introduced in Show 008. He returns in Show 021 to ride with Hoppy (California's not in the show) and is mentioned in Show 022.

One villain makes a repeat appearance. Dr. Trotter, whose voice is reminiscent of actor Sydney Greenstreet's, shows up in Show 031, when he's after smuggled diamonds, and Show 035, when he's promoting a fighter, the Red Terror.

In Show 013, an historical figure appears: Teddy Roosevelt.

HOPALONG CASSIDY made other audio appearances. In the early 1950s, he was a guest on the *Bing Crosby Radio Showcase*. In a skit entitled "Smoking Guns," he played Cassidy with Crosby and Peggy Lee in other roles. Boyd with good humor is the butt of jokes about the proliferation of Hopalong Cassidy merchandise and about competing B-Western heroes. In another appearance with "Nevada" Bing Crosby, on the latter's *Music Hall Radio Showcase* of 4 April 1951, Boyd rides to the rescue of guest Dinah Shore.

Appearing on the Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy show 26 December 1954, Hoppy and Charlie help Santa Claus on Christmas Eve. Hoppy is mentioned in passing on Jack Benny's program 6 March 1949.

The Great Gildersleeve, whose radio series began in 1941, was a great Hoppy fan and often went to see him at the movies. On one occasion, Hoppy (off microphone) visits Gildersleeve's hometown of Summerfield on a promotional tour, for the show of 15 March 1942.

Boyd made two 78 rpm discs released by Capital Records circa 1950 which reportedly sold 50,000 copies each. Both record packages include several pages of photos and story. In *Hopalong Cassidy and the Singing Bandit*, written and produced by Allan Livingston with music by Billy May, Hoppy, California (Clyde) and Lucky (Rand Brooks) ride into a town where the bank's just been robbed by masked men. Mistaken for the crooks, they are jailed. Topper helps Hoppy and Lucky escape. They find the real bandits, fight with them and bring them back to town. In *Hopalong Cassidy and the Square Dance Holdup*, a masked gunman holds up people at a square dance, including Hoppy and Lucky. Hoppy sets a trap and the trio soon capture the crook.

Running about six minutes each are the 78s *The Haunted Gold Mine* and *Two-Legged Wolf*. In the first, Hoppy and Lucky are in the Superstition Mountains. Lucky's father is missing; he's been looking for the Lost Dutchman's gold mine. In the second, Topper provides the clue for Hoppy and Lucky to nab stagecoach robbers who have been faking wolf attacks.

Other Hopalong 78s described in Joseph J. Caro's *Collector's Guide Hopalong Cassidy Memorabilia* are: *Hopalong Cassidy and the Story of Topper*, *Hoppy's Good Luck Coin*; *The Legend of Phantom Scout Pass*; *My Horse Topper*; and *Hopalong Cassidy and a Boy's Best Friend*. *Billy and the Bandit* is a 45 rpm story record.

THIS RADIO LOG gives away solutions in its descriptions of plots. It is based on a list of Hopalong Cassidy radio shows provided by the distributor Charles Michaelson & Sons of Beverly Hills, California. It numbers each show and also provides a date which is taken to indicate the day the program was taped. It's likely dates for Shows 007 and 029 are off by a year. Michaelson syndicates fifty-two shows from the series: the first twelve and forty various others.

Jay Hickerson's *The Ultimate History of Network Radio Programming* offers starting and stopping dates for the shows: 1 January to 24 September 1950 on Mutual; 30 September 1950 to 30 June 1951; and 22 September 1951 to 15 March 1952 on CBS. The log produced here matches shows to dates, with an apparent discrepancy in the first CBS year when there are 39 shows by Michaelson and 40 weeks by Hickerson. One program, most likely, was pre-empted for something else. A curiosity is a Christmas program, Show 104, which ran in March. The compiler suggests an explanation, in the log, and invites amplification from readers.

Hickerson lists the final 36 weeks of the show, 26 April through 27 December 1952, as being sponsored by Cella

Vineyards over CBS' Mountain States network, and airing at 9:30 p.m. Saturdays. These were rebroadcasts, based on air-date information found with selected surviving tapes.

Goodbye for now from Hopalong and California. And here's a special invitation to join them the next time they ride out from the Bar-20 when as usual I have a hunch they'll get into plenty of action that spells trouble.

-- announcer's closing to *Dead Man's Hand*



California Carlson and Hopalong Cassidy, their sixguns blazing

Radio Log

<u>Program number</u>	<u>Title</u>
<u>Date recorded</u>	<u>Date aired</u> <u>Featured Performers</u>

MUTUAL NETWORK

001	Dead Man's Hand
11 May 1948	1 January 1950 Wm Boyd & Andy Clyde
Hopalong Cassidy, foreman of the Bar-20 ranch, receives a letter supposedly from former hand Kit Kirby saying he's in trouble. Kit and his partner Joe found gold worth \$500 a ton, but his pard was ambushed. Kit's wife Sally is in Indian Spring and needs help. Hoppy calls California Carlson in from the range and they strike off to investigate -- knowing the letter is a forgery! They learn from Sally that she wrote the note and that her husband is hiding in the hills, afraid to bring his gold into town lest he be murdered. Killer Luke Barry has the town buffaloed, according to Jerry the bartender. That night, however, Doc Sheldon kills Barry in a card game dispute. Hoppy checks the dead man's cards, and wonders. The heroes overhear the doctor plotting with "dead" Barry to ambush Kit when he rides back into town. Doc persuades Sally to take him to meet Kirby; he's arranged with Barry that Barry will shoot whoever's riding second in line, and Doc will make sure that it's Kirby. Hoppy changes the plans, though, and when the sharpshooter begins firing, Doc is scared and makes a confession. California, it turns out, whacked Barry over the head and was shooting in his stead. His errant shots	

were enough to scare Doc. California later says he misunderstood directions and was trying to *hit* Doc. [First program to air]

002 Rainmaker of Eagle Nest Mountain

25 January 1948 8 January 1950

WB & AC

Hoppy is thinking of settling down in Eagle Nest for "peace and quiet." California is dismayed. On their way to the town, they see reward posters: \$50 for Lou Jackson, \$100 for Bud Bloom, \$500 for Griff Jessup. California, spotting these individuals, expects to collect a tidy sum only to learn the posters are a gag. Not so funny is the shooter who takes aim at them from Eagle Mountain. "Who's a shootin' at us, we ain't done nothin'," mutters California. "Comes from over near that mountain. Ah, maybe it's someone shootin' at a rabbit," replies Hopalong. "I may have a funny pair o' ears, but I ain't no rabbit," responds California. The cowboys learn from Martha Billington that she's not been able to see her rainmaker father, Honorary Sheriff Billington, for two months. He's holed upon the mountain perfecting his equipment. Billington's assistant Wetzel tells them supplies are needed, including dynamite. Opening a case at night, Hoppy finds sugar instead. Hoppy and California follow Martha when she rides up the mountain after dark. They confront Wetzel and his "three metallurgical students," who are really producing illegal alcohol. Hoppy explains that all along he's been acting as a deputy U.S. Marshal working undercover to find illicit liquor producers. Billington blows up his tower; and it starts to rain. [First program recorded.]

003 Coltsville Territory

4 February 1948 15 January 1950

WB & AC

A storm forces Hopalong and California to take refuge in a deserted church in Coltsville. California is shy of churches and especially "that marble orchard out back there." He is spooked by wind blowing through the organ pipes, and while they're eating their meal of baked beans, he believes he hears music. It turns out to be Susan Crowell and her mother, who've come to the church. Susan says her father built the church. The community was spooked and scared away and only they and Deacon Black remain. A beam falls from the ceiling, landing on the organ bench. It was no accident. Riker and his men show up in the morning determined to tear down the building for the timber. Hoppy fends them off. Riding to Fenwell for help, he finds a clue to the puzzle. The church sits on an oil dome. Riker and his men were put up to their shenanigans by Black. [Writer: Howard Swart]

004 Mystery of Skull Valley

4 August 1948 22 January 1950

WB & AC

On their way to buy prize Hereford bulls from a bankrupt ranch, Hopalong and California venture through lonely brush country, a land of superstition. California is unenthusiastic about the trip until they find a few gold Spanish coins in the road; then he begins to dream of finding hordes of treasure. The cowboys come upon a wounded man named Melendez, who turns out to be a sheepherder for Sam Carradine. "Voice of the dead," he mutters before losing consciousness. Someone shoots at them and they hurry to the nearest town to find a doctor. Doc tells them of the legend of Don Pablo, trapped in a cave-in and wailing at night. Doc also tells them that archaeologist Tom Travers had one of the coins, but the man's sister, Linda Travers, says he's been missing for several days. Carradine, who is interested in Miss Travers, offers to help. Hoppy spots a red bearded man -- the man who shot at him and California -- at Carradine's ranch, but Carradine shoots him before they can ask him any questions. Hoppy is suspicious of Carradine and baits a trap the night of the school dance. Venturing into the hills, the cowboys find an old mine, hear the moans and find a wounded Travers. Carradine comes upon them and starts shooting, touching off a cave-in which kills him. Carradine had wanted the gold coins for himself. [Dean Owen and Swart]

005 Renegades of the San Rafael

9 August 1948 29 January 1950

WB & AC

Ranchers in Guerneville are angry at John Carter, whom they believe has sold his ranch to Dolan, owner of the Triangle Water Company. Dolan wants to divide up Carter's ranch land and sell it to farmers, who could water crops from its springs. Ranchers who had access to the water for free would have to pay a fee. Carter has disappeared and his niece Laura is worried and asks Hoppy's help. California teases Hoppy about receiving her letter, which carries a scent of perfume, but he's the first to jump to the saddle to ride to help. California recognizes an old saddle-mate, Mike Birch, who it turns out was helping Dolan. Carter couldn't read, and he signed a bill of sale thinking it was for a horse when it was really for the ranch. Dolan then hid Carter away to be sure the fake document would hold up. Hoppy rescues Carter and they explain to the angry ranchers what has happened. [Owen and Swart]

006 Phantom Bandido

10 August 1949 [sic] 5 February 1950

WB & AC

Council City is a railhead where ranchers sell their cattle. Hopalong and California have brought 500 prime head here, even though there are other, closer markets. Turns out Hoppy has been asked by the Marshal [by the voice, played by Joe DuVal] to investigate a series of robberies of cowmen recently paid in cash. El Sombrero Negro -- The Black Hat -- held them up then disappeared somewhere near Stone Canyon. Hoppy prevents young, dejected rancher Fred Byars from drinking poison; he's despondent at having lost the money needed to pay the mortgage on his ranch. Byars was one of the ones held up by the mysterious bandit. Sanderson, owner of the Arcade Saloon, tells Hoppy he will only pay cash for cattle as he distrusts banks. Miss Vance, Sanderson's secretary, hates her boss and shows the Marshal a mask which she said she found in Sanderson's desk. Hoppy asks California to bait a trap, and the bandit holds California up and disappears, leaving behind a gold cufflink like one worn by Sanderson. When Hoppy, California and the marshal finally find a hidden cave entrance, and the loot, they solve the crime. It was Byars all along; Miss Vance was his wife. They hoped to frame Sanderson. [Harold Swanton]

007 Murder on the Trail

16 August 1948 12 February 1950

WB & AC

On their way back to the Bar-20, Hopalong and California stop in Rapid River for the night. Mills, the owner of the stage line, has been murdered. Munsey at the museum sends for Cassidy and says he's sorry he deciphered a map of treasure in Lost Canyon for Mills; he knew it would lead to trouble. A group of religious fanatics is said to live in the canyon, and likely killed Mills. The curator himself is killed by a falling axe and Hoppy and California are arrested. A blind man, Jake Peters, recognizes Hoppy by his walk and the jingle of his spurs, and they are released. A town character, Brick, blackmails the two cowboys, claiming he saw them kill the curator. Hoppy pays up. The men leave town and camp for the night. In the morning, Peters drags into camp and dies. Hopalong asks Mrs. Mills who's the richest man in those parts; it turns out to be the sheriff, who owns stock in a railroad. He killed Mills, who was interested in a new and shorter stage route through the canyon. [John Barkley]

008 Hoppy Takes a Chance

17 August 1948 19 February 1950

WB & AC

It's September at the Bar-20 and the line riders are looking forward to the end of the season. New rider Bob Cranston asks for a winter job, and Hoppy agrees. The sheriff shows up to say that Shelby Salinger of the neighboring Circle C just sold cattle for \$12,000, but the money was robbed from the stage and the driver Clem Yates was killed. He's looking for Johnny MacIver, an ex-convict. Did he come here? Hoppy covers for Cranston.

Cranston claims he's innocent; the night of the robbery he came upon two men, Sam Wellman and Red Conroy of the Circle C, and played cards with them, winning \$300. He has no alibi for the robbery. Hoppy learns that Salinger is desperate for money. Anne Richards, the only surviving witness to the robbery, admits she was forced by Salinger to give her story. Hoppy recruits ex-con Mike DeSico to help. Hoppy's briefly jailed, but California breaks him out. They save Cranston from a mob using a "confession" from Wellman to get Salinger to own up. DeSico was a forger, and the "confession" was made up for Hoppy's use. [Swanton]

009 Voice of the Dead

24 August 1948 26 February 1950 WB & AC
California learns that his cousin Thomas Baxter, owner of the Box O Ranch, has died. California drags Hoppy along to the reading of the will. "I must love you like a brother," Hoppy says. "I don't believe there's another man in the county I'd be out with, riding around in the middle of the night in this kind of weather." They are gruffly greeted by housekeeper Matilda Hatchett and David J. Potter, executor of the estate. Baxter's son Ralph wants an advance on his inheritance. Hand Josh Colter wants California to leave. Ruth Baxter says something strange is going on. Cousin Phineas Phipps is the last to arrive. The will leaves five equal shares, but should anyone die, that share will be split among the others. Three want to sell the ranch, Ruth and California don't. Phipps is shot before he can vote. Ruth says her father was poisoned. In his last days he couldn't speak, but he read a lot from a book by Channing. Hoppy finds an underlined passage: "Thank heaven for books. They are the voices of the distant and the dead." Ralph finds a clue in the hidden ranch books; 1,500 head of cattle are missing. Ralph is shot in a locked room, but Hoppy discovers a hidden passageway. He accuses Potter with plotting to take the ranch, as there's oil on the property. He's in cahoots with Phipps, who didn't really die. [Swanton]

010 Ten Strike Gold

27 August 1948 5 March 1950 WB & AC
On their way to Ten Strike to buy blooded horses, Hopalong and California hear shots in an arroyo. A road agent, known as The Parson, is holding up a stagecoach. They scare him off and the driver, "Hard-Head" Brophy, gruffly thanks them. Ranse Morgan, a young express messenger whose brother and girlfriend's father were killed by the Parson, was wounded when drawing on the badman. They take him to town. They speak with general store owner Luke Gribble [DuVal]. Molly Laird is upset that Morgan was shot. She's the one Hoppy's come to see about horses. At her ranch, they see the sweaty roan horse which the Parson rode. The more Hopalong and California ask questions, the more they're rebuffed. The Parson, it seems, had been something of a local hero, until a couple of recent killings. A special gold shipment is going out and Hoppy agrees to go with it. In another holdup attempt, Morgan shoots and kills the Parson. He takes the stage on, and is held up by a second Parson. Hoppy notices that, from boot tracks, the second one is pigeon-toed. He goes to see Gribble, and a disguised Brophy comes in, prompting Gribble to confess to the holdups. California posed as Brophy, who was the bandit killed by Morgan; he'd gotten into the act as well. Hoppy knew that there were only two pigeon-toed men in town: the banker Bowers and Gribble. Once California checked the banker's shoes for trail dirt, Hoppy knew Gribble was his man.

011 Red Rock Mesa

31 August 1948 12 March 1950 WB & AC
On a horse-buying trip with Hopalong, California reminisces about back in '73 when he was chased through Mescalosa country by Comanche. The heroes suddenly come upon a burned out ranch. Arrows are shot at them and Chief Broken

Lance demands their guns. Martha Britt, a teacher on the reservation, insists the Comanche are not responsible for a series of recent raids. In town, her friend Marshal Bob Dolan is having a hard time calming Sully Whitman and other ranchers, who want to attack the Indians. Hoppy goes to the Terra de la Muerta, 100 miles of desert, and California remembers an old buffalo trail, the one he and a man named Whit Sullivan -- whom he now recognizes as Sully Whitman -- took when escaping the Comanche years before. Atop the mesa, the cowboys come upon a herd of 2,500 missing cattle, guarded by 20 men. Hoppy and California snatch one of them, and with California telling a tall tale of torture, and Chief Broken Lance standing nearby, they get a confession. Whitman is behind the raids.

012 Empty Saddle

7 September 1948 19 March 1950 WB & AC
It's fall roundup at the Bar-20, and one of the top hands, Ace Beaumont, is missing. He didn't come back from Three Forks but his horse -- with a blood-stained saddle -- did. His fiancée Ellie becomes worried. Also missing is one of Ma Strickland's hands, also a bartender from the town saloon and the sheriff's deputy, Tom Oliphant. Pike Stevens, said to be the unluckiest prospector alive, doesn't offer a clue. But it turns out he struck it rich and is now trying to knock off those who grubstaked him and might expect a share. There's a final confrontation in the mountains, where Pike takes Ellie in order to flush out a wounded Beaumont. Sharpshooter Hoppy kills Pike before he can kill the young couple.

013 The Failure

10 September 1948 26 March 1950 WB
In 1886, Branch Patterson owns most of the town of Shotwell. He's campaigning for "Honest Ike" Iverson for sheriff. The former sheriff, Evan K. Hardin, by letter endorses Iverson, though no one knows where he's gone. Janey Malloy runs the town newspaper. Her fiancée Bill Dixon decides to run against Iverson. A friendly man named Ted, who's recently sold his ranch, lingers long enough to help Hoppy investigate what's going on. Hardin was never known to get along with Iverson -- so why the endorsement? Wires are sent off to New York, but Patterson controls the telegraph agent and changes the message. Hoppy checks with Hardin's former landlady and others, and eventually gets a different story. Through a ruse, Patterson leads him to the sheriff's body. Dixon wins the election. A wire comes from Ted -- Teddy Roosevelt -- saying he's running for mayor of New York City. [Swanton]

014 Bandits of Ridge Creek

28 September 1948 2 April 1950 WB & AC
In a small cowtown, Hopalong and California meet Sheriff Duncan at the Silver Dust Cafe. Tom Hinkle, an ex-con, says he and his father were framed on bank robbery charges. The sheriff is under pressure to recover the money, which was never spent because the serial numbers were recorded. Ace Britt engineered the frame. Hoppy sets a trap, but Britt anticipates it, captures Hoppy and California and dumps them into a well. Chip Miles, an old man who was forced to help Britt, drops a rope to the two cowmen. Britt gives money to Tom and suggests he leaves town. Britt shoots Chip, but Chip's daughter -- and Tom's friend -- Mary faces him, and Hoppy and California wrap it up. The money given to Tom has a suspicious smell, leading Hoppy to find the cache -- in the well. [Swart]

015 Killers of Sandy Gulch

4 October 1948 9 April 1950 WB & AC
Sandy Gulch has a reputation for lawlessness. William Taylor is accused of killing banker Watson. He is sentenced to hang by Judge Calhoun. Biggy Griggs stirs up a mob for instant lynching. Taylor escapes. Sarah Taylor asks Hopalong's help. Taylor says he was framed. He says he came west to buy a share in

the Diva Mine, which California recalls as being worthless. Taylor was robbed of his \$12,000. Griggs ultimately confesses. [Swart]

016 Red Death
5 October 1948 16 April 1950 WB & AC
In the alkali country near Rio Encendo -- the disappearing river - Hopalong and California are scouting a cattle trail. They come upon a dead man who's been shot and is entirely red. One hundred and twenty miles away, rancher Kit Kavanaugh, meanwhile, is planning to drive 500 head north. He refuses to sell out to Steve Cantrell, who wants to put his cattle on the land. Martha tells Kit the cattle are sick. Doc Galaway calls it the "red death." Kit's spring is running red. Hoppy, though, believes it is something else. Hoppy meets up with Eustace Culpepper, an old friend who calls Hoppy "Bill." Culpepper is a former druggist and Hoppy has him analyze the water. It contains arsenic. What's the connection between the dead "red" man and poisoned cattle? Hoppy learns there are plans for a railroad line and Cantrell wants Kavanaugh's ranch for its water. He hired an engineer to put red dye in the disappearing river; it came through at a spring on Kavanaugh's. Who's behind it? Doc. [Swanton]

017 Coyote's Creed
11 October 1948 23 April 1950 WB & AC
Hoppy and California have just turned their horses into the corral when a rider thunders in. Ricky Curtis from Buckboard Flats has been sent by his half-sister Ellen to find Hoppy. Something funny's going on. Cattle are being stampeded and poisoned. Hoppy was an old friend of their dad. Hoppy arrives to find the ranch house on fire. He explores an old mine on the property, the Glory Hole. Someone's been working it. They are shot at. Steve Holt wants to buy the mine. Ellen denies working the mine. Ricky is wounded. A warning note is left. The sheriff won't help. Holt won't talk to Hoppy. Hoppy and California capture the nighttime crew of highgraders. Ricky was serving as lookout. Old Luther, the foreman, was covering for him. [Mel Gardner]

018 Bullets For Ballots
11 October 1948 30 April 1950 WB & AC
In Gila Corners, Dodson is backed for election as sheriff by the lawless element headed by Brad Cheevers, a saloon owner. Lem Purdy at the general store wants a new sheriff and will run if the election's an honest one. His daughter Betty is frightened, but Hoppy and California put up posters for Purdy. Cheevers has the store broken up. The race looks close, and Hoppy engineers a way to get Cheevers' men out of town long enough for the election to be held. Purdy wins, 66-59. [Swart]

019 Green Valley Payoff
18 October 1948 7 May 1950 WB & AC
Sheriff Joe Perry and Deputy Pomeroy are trying to get information out of young Frank Lawlor, who's been accused of being a night runner with the Green Valley Gang. He's an ex-convict. Frank says he was forced to be lookout for the gang or they'd harm his girlfriend, Ellie McClure. Monty is the only gang member he knew. He didn't know who the Boss was. Ellie breaks up the grilling, hurling a bottle of ink. Hoppy pulls a fake bank heist in order to get thrown into a cell next to Lawlor. He uses the alias Bill Carney. Breaking out, Hoppy rides with Lawlor to meet up with Monty and another man named Bowman. They offer to let him join, if it's okay with the Boss -- who turns out to be Pomeroy. Hoppy recognized Pomeroy from a dot of ink on his chin. [Swanton]

020 Man Who Made Willy Whirl
26 October 1948 14 May 1950 WB & AC
In Frenchy Laverne's casino dance hall, Professor Stratford Bardwell's troupe of actors is holding forth. Drew Mansfield is

signing autographs, California reports gleefully. Dixie Renee, French's girl, says Hoppy's the one who should be giving out autographs. He resists at first, then signs a paper for her. The group is rehearsing to put on a show by someone named Willy Shakespeare, California reports. Joe Gregory, ramrod of the Flying X, accuses Hoppy of being a blackmailer. He says he recognizes Hoppy's voice, clothes and horse. Someone shoots Gregory, but the bullet was meant for Hoppy. Hoppy and California, on the range, see Dixie meet up with a man on a white horse. The Sheriff [DuVal] confronts Hoppy with a blackmail note bearing his signature. California breaks Hoppy out of jail. At the rehearsal, they listen to Mansfield, a great mimic. Laverne is killed. Mansfield is the blackmailer. He wore a black suit like Hoppy's under his regular acting clothes; Hoppy remembers the trick from when he once played an angel and devil in a Sunday school play. [Irving Ashkenazie]

021 Range War
1 November 1948 21 May 1950 WB
At Cy Otterman's ranch north of the Bar-20, 100 head of cattle are missing. Hoppy is short 100, too, and each figures the other may have taken them. Jess Hendricks, who just brought in a hundred head of Texas steers and ran them through dip, has come up 100 shy, he tells the men. He suspects Sweetwater Valley homesteaders of rustling. Members of the Cattlemen's Association are missing 1,000 animals in all. Bert Larrimore, a nester, pays off his ranch mortgage and is suspected of using money from stolen cattle to do so. He says money was from aunt who died in New Jersey. Hoppy isn't convinced he's guilty, but he doesn't know the real story. Hand Johnny MacIver [introduced in Show 008], who is riding with Hoppy, once dated Marcella Larrimore, until they had a disagreement. She says Bert made the money in a business deal in the east. Smoke Bledsoe, a professional gunman, shows up in North Fork's blacksmith shop. The blacksmith is dead, and Hoppy and Johnny find drawings under the desk of brands from area ranches. Hoppy suspects he made up a set of irons for someone, then was killed. Hoppy wants Bledsoe to have free rein and lead them to whoever's behind things. Johnny tries to pump Bert. Bert pays off an old \$50 debt with a bill which smells of cattle dip. Hendricks calls a meeting; he pays Larrimore to make a false confession implicating all the nesters. Hendricks directs Bledsoe to shoot Larrimore through the window. Hoppy intervenes and tells Hendricks to sit in a chair by the window, near a red lamp. Hendricks sings -- not knowing Bledsoe has been put in jail. Hendricks had connections at the capitol and expected to get Sweetwater land if the nesters left. He paid Larrimore \$15,000. [Swanton]

022 Letter from the Grave
15 November 1948 28 May 1950 WB & AC
Jack Bannock's letter from Gold Run, Montana Territory, asking for Hopalong's help is dated 10 October 1873 -- 15 years ago! Hoppy, who knew Bannock while growing up in Dodge City, is still curious enough to look into what happened to his old friend. (Ranch hand Johnny is mentioned in passing.) In Montana, Postmaster Riley says he recovered a sack of mail hidden by the old Creed Gang in the wall of a house. The Creeds had quite a tight hold on the area until cleaned up by vigilantes, the postmaster says. He urges Hoppy to talk to old Charlie Borden, who works for Hutchinson. Meanwhile, a young woman with a letter is asking about Bannock, too. She's his niece, Sarah Newcomb. Her letter describes a stash of gold dust. Lawyer Matt Gillis and his partner Jeff Larkin claim to know nothing. Gillis, though, was one of the old Creeds. Borden tells Hoppy the Creeds were blamed for a lot of killings years ago. Hutchinson tells Hoppy he made his fortune not from mining but from selling "Little Wonder" pushbutton knives. He says he suspects Gillis of being behind Bannock's death -- even though no body was ever found. Hoppy meets Sarah Newcomb. Her letter offers a clue that the key is in

the "green gallows." Sheriff Riley describes an old hanging tree. Gillis and Larkin, who have stolen the letter from Miss Newcomb, have already dug there. Hoppy looks up in the tree, however, and sees an old pistol nailed there. He sights along it and sees a boulder -- and someone digging. It turns out to be Hutchinson -- who was Bannock's partner and killed Bannock for the gold. He's now digging up the body to recover a prototype knife, which could give away his guilt. [Swanton]

023 Death Paints a Picture

16 November 1948 4 June 1950

WB & AC

Hoppy and California stop at the Flying K Ranch. Old Gordon Kingsley is looking for a new foreman since Ben Garrett disappeared. Elaine Kingsley, Gordon's young wife, sent for Hoppy to help find her missing artist brother, Rory Victor. The men ask around and find Garrett, dead. In his shirt is a drawing by Victor, showing a range scene and a windmill. Elaine says it is a rough version of a painting in her home. Kingsley doesn't like Victor, and accuses his wife of pawning her pearls to give money to her brother. She declares that's not the case, but refuses to show him the pearls, which are in a bank vault. He says she must wear them to the governor's ball. Victor turns out to be Rory Varrick, who has escaped jail. A tough man, Reno, and his pard Dusty claim to be working an old mine. But when Hoppy challenges them, they draw guns. They killed Garrett. And Dusty, with an itchy finger, killed Victor, too, before he could reveal the location of \$60,000 in old loot. He muttered "windmill," they say, and Hoppy knows the clue is in the drawing. Hoppy and California escape the basement of the old smelter, but when they reach the Flying K, Kingsley has been killed. The times don't jibe for Reno to have done it, however, and Hoppy knows Elaine killed him. He accuses her of being Rory Varrick's divorced wife. Varrick blackmailed her into giving him shelter and money. In a dispute, she shot her husband with a Spanish deringer. [Ashkenazie]

024 Border of Nowhere

22 November 1948 11 June 1950

WB

Widow Lucy Marriott runs a meat store in Cherokee with her son Chip. One day a thug named Shep barges in and fires a rifle from the store window. He threatens them if they talk. Meanwhile, Hoppy and California are on a trip to pick up a hundred head of Aberdeen Angus from Ed Allison. While they generally raise whiteface Herefords, Hoppy wants to try the breed on one range. He buys the cattle but balks at paying a \$2 trail insurance to Peaslee, the mayor of Cherokee. Allison says Stan Marriott was killed by Peaslee's thug, as was a Cattleman's Association agent. Sheriff Fred Fancher, facing Peaslee in the street, was killed -- by Shep. Hoppy says he has rustler insurance, "It cost \$50, two sixguns at \$25 apiece." Hoppy meets Chip and Lucy and learns they have a secret petition signed by 50 ranchers calling for a new election. After Stan was killed, they promised not to produce it and jeopardize the signers. Hoppy wants to force a confrontation, though, and tells Peaslee he'll release the petition. Enlisting the help of ranchers, Hoppy puts away Peaslee. Chip, knowing Shep would again shoot, fills his gun's breech with hot tallow. The gun explodes in Shep's face. Allison is elected sheriff.

025 The Medicine Man

30 November 1948 18 June 1950

WB & AC

With Cassidy and Carlson three days overdue with the \$20,000 proceeds from a joint sale of cattle, ranchers are getting restless. Joe Randall [DuVal] of the Double O finally agrees the men should ride out to meet Cassidy. Hoppy, California and a new hand, Marty Brett, meanwhile, stop over at an inn for the night. Hoppy isn't pleased to see Marty meet up with Speed Blaney. Also at the inn are Doc Richards, vendor of patent medicines, and his niece Janet. Marty visits with them and mentions the money Hoppy is carrying. Janet makes him a cup of tea. Hoppy

awakens California late at night, uneasy about Marty. California finally confides that Marty owes money from an old gambling debt. In the morning, Hoppy finds Marty -- and the money -- missing. On the trail, Blaney plots with Pete to hold up Hoppy, figuring that whatever he tells the ranchers, they'll think Marty was to blame. Hoppy overhears them, and realizes they didn't take the money. He and California then ride to catch up with Richards. Doc, meanwhile, drugs Marty and hypnotizes him to shoot Hoppy. Hoppy overcomes Marty, then calls on Doc, who doesn't know what has happened. As things wrap up, Marty asks Hoppy if he dumped out the tea that Janet planned to serve him. Hoppy says no, then spots California, in a reverie, dreaming of marrying a rich widow. [Swanton]

026 Flying Outlaw

10 December 1948 25 June 1950

WB & AC

Riding near Lone Tree Springs, Hoppy misses the trail and has to circle back. California is excited to see wild pigeons, and wishes he'd brought his shotgun. Someone is following the pair; it turns out to be Zeb Parker, marshal of Argonaut, looking for road agents who've robbed a gold shipment from the stage. Hoppy is looking for a former Bar-20 hand, Red Abbott, who has taken up gold panning. Abbott, says the marshal, is wanted as head of the gang. Wint Huntoon, express agent, agrees to Hoppy's idea of sending out a quick shipment of gold. He's later furious when it's held up, but Hoppy lets him in on a secret: it was really nuts and bolts which Hoppy and California substituted. Hoppy's puzzled; only he and California, the agent and the marshal and his wife Myra knew of the shipment. At night, Red shows up at Hoppy's room and claims he's being framed. His horse was stolen weeks ago. Someone's dyed his hair to look like Abbott, Hoppy speculates. How did word get out? No one was seen leaving town. "Want me to answer it right off, or give it a first class think?" asks California. A later complaint from the old hand spurs Hoppy to see the solution. He sets a new trap, and catches Zeb and Myra, who've used pigeons to send word to cohorts about shipments. [Swanton]

027 Sundown Kid

25 January 1949 2 July 1950

WB

On the trail outside of Saguaro, Hoppy meets a young man suffering sunstroke and a bullet crease over one ear. A posse is on the kid's trail. They hold up at Mort Robertson's ranch house. The boy is Eddie Langtry. The girl at the ranch, Kitty, is fond of him. She says he's been away and has a wife, Sally, in town. The young man is known as the Sundown Kid and is considered an outlaw. The sheriff says Eddie killed his wife the night before. Hoppy and Kitty cover for Sundown; Kitty is still fond of him. The Kid later says the Walker revolver he's carrying isn't his; he had a new Frontier model. Kitty's Uncle Mort doesn't like the kid, but helps Hoppy investigate. In town, Liz McKenna says she saw the Kid go to Sally's house. She won't tell the truth -- who Sally's been seeing. Hoppy speculates this man faked a murder-suicide, only the Kid got away. When Liz finally blabs, it is to say the man was Mort Robertson. Hoppy races to catch up with Robertson, whom he's sent off with the Kid. Hoppy attempts a 1,500-yard shot with a Winchester. Mort is shot in the head just as he's about to kill the Kid. It turns out, though, that the shot was fired from 1,000 yards by Kitty, using a .450 Sharps. Hoppy and the sheriff will keep her secret, so the Kid won't be embarrassed to court a gal who's such a good shot. [Swanton]

028 Hoppy Sees Red

31 January 1949 9 July 1950

WB & Joe DuVal

There's gloom in the Bar-20 cook shack. California [first appearance of Joe DuVal in the role] is fit to be tied. The new cook, Clem Hodgkins, has walked out, leaving him to take care of a high pile of dirty pans. Clem, who's keen on a young lady, Emmy, wants his own spread. He's vague about how he will get the money. He has a small gold claim, but he won't work it.

Hoppy is afraid Clem will take the wrong trail to riches. Emmy urges him to prospect, like their friend Earl, who's taking out \$3,000 a month. Meanwhile, Jake Miller, who runs the Wells Fargo office, tells Hoppy he's afraid the line will be cut out because of a series of robberies. Will Tudor takes the stage out, carrying the latest shipment of dust. Clem, in Sarah's general store, volunteers to deliver groceries to a remote ranch for her. The stage is held up. Sarah's spring wagon and horses come back -- without Clem. The sheriff goes after Clem. Hoppy says there was no gold on the stage -- he persuaded Tudor not to ship it. The sheriff finds some dust, however, at Clem's cabin and arrests him. Clem says a snake spooked the horses and the wagon ran away. Tudor, describing the holdup, says the robber wore a blue handkerchief over his face. A dusty brown spring wagon was hidden nearby. But the wagon was red, claims Hoppy, pointing out the window. It turns out the driver was in cahoots with Earl to frame Clem; Earl's claim went dry, but he was taking dust out of Clem's vein. Clem says he'd hoped to earn the reward for capturing the robber to stake his new ranch. (Hoppy had sent a note by way of California to Sarah to paint one side of the wagon red, to trick Tudor into squealing.) [Swart]

029 Hoppy and the Schoolmarm

1 February 1948 [sic] 16 July 1950 WB & JD
Hopalong finds California at the towns' swanky new saloon owned by Steve Morrison. Someone breaks a window; Morrison blames it on Dinky Davis, who owns a rival saloon. Hoppy, though, saw the school teacher, Miss Abbott, throw an apple. He talks with the crusty, veteran teacher, who complains about the need for a new school building. The next morning, Miss Abbott is missing. Her boarding house room is a shambles. Hoppy and California take turns "teaching" the wild class. One boy, Jimmy, mentions a remote cabin owned by Morrison. Hoppy rides out. Jimmy catches up, and warns him that he overheard a plot to blow up the bridge when Hoppy rides over it. Hoppy rescues Miss Abbott. He returns to town to hear Davis spreading word that the teacher was found dead at Morrison's cabin. There's a showdown. Davis was behind the kidnapping. Morrison later volunteers the money to build a new school. [Tom Shirley]

030 The King of Cinnabar

3 February 1949 23 July 1950 WB & JD
Riding the Alta Mesa stage, Hoppy befriends a young woman, Jessie Meredith, who plans to open a dress shop, and Ben Farley, who has just bought a ranch. A couple weeks later, Hoppy receives a letter saying that Ben is in trouble. He's refused to pay the \$1 a head a month Bill McGrath, the "King of Cinnabar," is asking to board his cattle on range that has water. Instead, Ben is trying to convince the other ranchers to help dam Cash Creek for a new water source. McGrath has an engineer, Starbuck, killed and replaced with his own man. He plots to blow up the creek. California coerces a confession out of him by shooting into the boxes of dynamite. Later, Hoppy says he needs smelling salts to revive his pard, who fainted when he learned how dangerous his shooting was. [Swanton]

031 The Shell Game

7 February 1949 30 July 1950 WB & JD
Hopalong and California are in New York City for the Great West Rodeo at Madison Square Garden. Before heading home, they want to visit California's old girlfriend Hashknife Lil Carver, who now runs a waterfront warehouse. When they find her, a skinny little gunman with an English accent runs in, seeking refuge. Police later shoot him; he was a smuggler, English Eddie, who ran Duke Export Co. He'd hidden aboard the *Diomedé*. In a cartridge California took from the man, Hoppy finds a hollow shell and a paper with the words "Black Cat Salem" on it. Lil goes to auction to bid on 2.5 tons of abalone shell which came on the *Diomedé*. She outbids a fat man, Dr. Sidney Trotter of Trotter

Laboratories, who later buys the crates of shells from her. He says he needs them for medical experiments. He can't wait until the next day, and takes them at gunpoint. Hoppy and California check the ship, the captain shows them Eddie's coat, and a few shells on the deck. One is hollow. On Salem Street in Brooklyn [the city where Hoppy creator Mulford lived for many years], they find the Black Cat, a boat. When they finally catch up with Trotter and his henchman Willy, they have cracked open the shells, but not found all the hidden diamonds they expected. Hoppy and California get a reward. [Ashkenazie]

032 Blood Money

8 February 1949 6 August 1950 WB & JD
Returning to the Bar-20 from a rodeo in Eagle City, Hoppy and California plan to visit Tim Bartlett's ranch. They come upon a man burying a suitcase. He leaves and another man arrives to dig it up. This second man is shot. He's Bartlett. Hoppy and California take him to Twin Bluffs, then announce to blustery Sheriff Simmons that he died. They visit Tim's widow Madge. Tim's Uncle Harry Peters is there from Brooklyn, for health reasons. He says he received a note demanding \$5,000. He doesn't have it. Hoppy tells him to leave newspaper instead, and with the sheriff watches. California shows up, and in a ruse, pretends he was after the money. The sheriff takes him to jail. Hoppy tells Peters Tim told him he saw him hide money under the floor at the ranch house. Peters admits he had some money. Hoppy visits California in jail. California passes a note from a bartender. Uncle Harry, meanwhile, sees the ghost of Tim, but Madge prevents him from shooting. It turns out Tim didn't die after all. Harry's not who he pretended; he's really a wanted felon. The bartender turns out to be a U.S. marshal. The sheriff shoots Harry. The sheriff had recognized Harry for who he was, and had demanded money. The marshal offers California some of Harry's money; but it's counterfeit. [Robert Burdick]

033 The Disappearing Deputy

14 February 1949 13 August 1950 WB & JD
Ed Larros, the Indian deputy (and ex-con) in Willow Creek, is missing, suspected of being involved in a series of holdups. Riding into town, Hoppy stops Bart Benson from beating his horse. He tussles with Benson's man Jed. Sheriff Parker says the town is a powder keg. Larros, whose arm is in a cast after being shot, is a crook, he believes. Larros' girlfriend is a waitress at the cafe. Hoppy asks Doc about how to make a cast. He sees Jed order liverwurst sandwiches on bread, no mustard and pile on the pickles -- just what the deputy usually orders. Getting Benson into a penny toss contest, Hoppy sees the man favor one arm. A posse goes out in search of Larros, but Hoppy and California circle back. Benton's horse proves Hoppy's case; its tail has been trimmed, the horsehair used to mix with adobe to make a fake cast which Benson wore when he pretended to be Larros during the robberies. Benson is usually a dead shot in penny pitching, but his arm's stiff from wearing the cast. [Swart]

034 The Whistling Ghosts

15 February 1949 20 August 1950 WB & JD
Returning from the state capitol, the cowboys detour through Elbow Creek where California grew up. They stop at Paddy Bowman's cabin, but no one's there. They hear whistling, and when they investigate a ravine, someone shoots at them. In town, they learn Paddy was murdered two months before. Sheriff Down says the Whistling Ghost shows up every two or three nights and shoots anyone poking around the cabin. Hoppy finds a red and gold skewbald stallion -- the same horse as was ridden by the shooter -- in the corral. The horse's owner is Slade, who runs the assay office. Hoppy and California eat with the sheriff and his wife. They talk with Ben Clayton, a lawyer and friend of Paddy's. He suspects Slade, who was in a longtime dispute with Paddy when he told the prospector he'd found only

fool's gold. Paddy's wife and son went back east as a result. Slade now wants to buy Paddy's place. Hoppy visits Slade's office. A young man, Archer, is new to the staff. A woman named Lorraine works there. One night, the ghost is shot. It turns out to be Slade, who's really Paddy's son Davie, looking for his father's killer. His letter from his father indicates there's gold. Hoppy has him sing the words to the song he's been whistling. This affords a clue to finding the gold and a cash record book in the fireplace mantle. They capture Clayton, who'd hoped to get the gold. [Bill Bates]

035 An Old Spanish Custom

21 March 1949 27 August 1950

WB & JD

In Southern California, Hoppy and California are on a cattle buying expedition. California brags about once being horse wrangler for Don Leone Ortega's ranch. That's how he got the name California, he says. Hoppy suggests it was because "some slicker sold you a deed to a gold mine that ended up being in the middle of San Francisco Bay." Hoppy says California is exaggerating, and finally says that in fact he, Hoppy, was once horse wrangler on the ranch. California sputters. They come upon the ranch; only the adobe hacienda hasn't burned. Don Leone's daughter Isabella says El Lobo and Don Carlos Esteban and their men are after her father's buried gold. Don Leone is wounded, and after talking with Hoppy, dies. He shows Hoppy a map of the treasure, which was obtained by illegal means, and is buried near the ocean. The outlaws capture Hoppy, California and Isabella and force them to lead them to the treasure. They drink brandy which is buried with the gold, not knowing it is poisoned. The tide washes the gold back to sea. [Ashkenazie]

036 Secret of Martin Doon

22 March 1949 3 September 1950

WB

Cass Doon's father Martin owns the Double D ranch. Sandy Ransford has 500 head on his Triple O, ready to ship to market. Dart Hanna, a gunman, shows up in town. Someone shoots a jittery little man in a tweed suit named Coyle. It's a dry time of year, but the man's boots are coated with hard, dry blue mud. At the hotel, Hoppy learns the man came to Tamarack with a suitcase, typing machine and telescope. He muttered something to the clerk about a terrible mistake. Ransford denies Doon is out to get him. But there's a fire at his ranch and the herd stampedes, losing 100 over an arroyo. The fire was started, and Doon admits his man Hanna did it. He'd gotten a job by calling himself Ben Larrimore, Doon says. He fired the man, and this was revenge; the fire was meant for the Double D. Hoppy finds stakes in the ground on Ransford's land. Doon offers to buy the ranch from Ransford. Hoppy shoots Hanna before he can shoot Doon. Ransford gets a letter from an engineering firm saying an old survey was incorrect and that much of the Double D including springs is really part of his land. The letter is a fake, made by Hoppy, but it's enough to get a confession out of Doon. A railroad is coming through, and the engineer discovered an error made years ago, at the instigation of Doon's father. [Swanton]

037 Four to Go

23 March 1949 10 September 1950

WB & JD

A rider coming up the trail is shot. In his pocket is a list with four names: Carl Cooper, Goldie Farnsworth, Len Brock -- and Hopalong Cassidy. The dead man is Cooper. Sheriff Bates of Turkey Bend says he was a partner with Farnsworth and Brock in a mine run by Benson. Benson recently bought them out, and struck it rich. Benson and his daughter Emmy live in a cabin. She's angry, and wants to move to the city. Emmy has won ribbons for her sharpshooting -- but deliberately misses a crow when shooting at it with Benson's rifle. This puzzles Hoppy. At lawyer Kilgore's office, Farnsworth is killed. Brock is found shot through the back, and Benson claims to have shot him. Hoppy says no, and proves that the man's rifle's sights are out of

whack. Hoppy tricks Kilgore into admitting his guilt; he was trying to eliminate all the old mine partners so he could take it over. Hoppy's name was on Cooper's list because he was riding to ask for help. [Swart]

038 The Red Terror

28 March 1949 17 September 1950

WB & JD

Hoppy and California take cattle to Fort Texas on the Gulf to sell. They meet Blarney Madigan, an old friend, and his daughter Laurel. Madigan is now running the Roman Arena and Opera House, and has booked a fight between Bombo Rene the New Orleans Bombshell and the Red Terror. Windy Sykes is backing Bombo, and Dr. Drum backs Terror. During the fight, Bombo dies. Hoppy recognizes Drum as being Dr. Trotter [from Show 031], who's out of prison. "So you changed your name to Drum and beat it, eh?" asks Hoppy deadpan. Laurel is fearful that her fiance Brady Adams will be hurt when fighting Red Terror. He needs the money, though, so they can marry. Hoppy makes a major wager with Trotter. Someone shoots and wounds Adams. Hoppy takes his place in the ring. He suspects the water is drugged; California later finds there was strychnine in it. Hoppy wins the match, and accuses Sykes of being in cahoots with Trotter. [Ashkenazie]

039 Hoppy and the Iron Horse

29 March 1949 24 September 1950

WB & JD

It's 1890 and Hoppy and California are in Wheeler to see Tom Smith, vice president of the railroad. California marvels at the iron horses and says he'd like to run one. A series of mishaps are plaguing the railroad and Smith suspects Lee Garvin, who has married his daughter Jessie. Hoppy and California go undercover at the rail yard to investigate. The yard boss Banks tells California to get some red signal oil. There is none, and Hoppy jokingly tells him to mix a bucket of steam with some green oil and it will turn red. Garvin is seen talking with a hobo, Ben Watts. A suspect soon emerges: Harmon Roberts, Smith's secretary, who shoots Watts. Hoppy learns that Garvin has a record, and Watts blackmailed him for money. Roberts planned to take over the railroad, and kept secret from Jessie the railroad's profitability, and also that Smith owned valuable oil land as well. Hoppy tricks a confession from Roberts by pretending he has one from his cohort, Banks. [Shirley]

CBS NETWORK

040 Gunsmoke Rides the Stagecoach Trail

4 April 1949 30 September 1950

WB & JD

Stage driver Corrigan is held up and the Ridge City mine payroll of \$20,000 is taken. The bandit had red hair, just like the nester Red Prichard near the Bar-20. Miners led by Bert Neal organize to go after Prichard. Hoppy and California find only Prichard's daughter Marylou at home. They eventually catch up with Prichard before the miners do. A lawyer, Butterfield, and his chum Curly are behind the thefts. Butterfield, who has been staying at the Bar-20, turns out to be a crook named Jenks. Hoppy realizes it when Butterfield makes a remark about Judge Dawes and a game of pinochle; Hoppy knows the judge hated cards. [Swart]

041 Tinker's Dam

5 April 1949 7 October 1950

WB & JD

The cowboys are on the road near the Circle-X, a falling-down ranch run by old man Lawson's son Andy. Someone shoots at the stage and the driver is killed. A woman is inside, Jane Lawson. She says she shot the bandit, who was all in black. A junk wagon appears, driven by Old Tom the Tinker, who speaks in verse. At the ranch, Andy is hurt; someone took a potshot at him. The sheriff arrests Andy; some loot is found in the house. Matt Garrett, owner of the stage, stirs a lynch mob, which turns on Hoppy. He is clipped by a bullet and puts his arm in a sling.

Hoppy ultimately reveals Tinker Tom as the robber; gold coins are in his wagon and his horse is the only one that will tolerate wearing the robber's horse's black hood over its head. Hoppy has a gun hidden in the sling, and shoots Tom when he pulls a gun. Hoppy's clue: A little metal slug, or tinker's dam, found near the holdup. [Bill Holmes]

042 Hoppy Settles a Debt

11 April 1949 14 October 1950 WB & JD
From Banker Kittle in Brill's Corners, Hoppy and California learn that young Steve Henderson owes a gambling debt to Blackie Bates of the Black Deuce. Hoppy feels sorry for the young man; he recalls when his folks were killed in the Squaw Creek massacre. Old Man Henderson took the boy in. Blackie offers to forgive Steve's debt in exchange for a few hundred head of rustled cattle. Henderson tells Hopalong he's going to quit ranching, his heart's gone out of it, Steve's continually in debt. He says he plans to turn the ranch over to Steve in two days, when he turns 21. Hoppy and California join the drive, and persuade Steve not to participate in the rustling. Hoppy urges Steve to confront Bates. Steve insists the debts are phony. Then they race to the ranch to get there before Bates, who plans to tell Henderson about the debt. At the ranch, they hear shots and find Bates dead at the hand of Kittle. Hoppy explains that he put blanks in Bates' gun, and that Kittle hid in the closet until he heard shots. He was sure Bates had killed Henderson, so he then shot Bates, who was in cahoots with him. [Swart]

043 Hoppy Turns on the Heat

12 April 1949 21 October 1950 WB & JD
In Clover Springs, the late banker John Pierce had two sons, Scotty and Jim. When Pierce is killed in an accident and Scotty laid up, Jim comes to help run things. George Watts, manager at the bank, has loaned \$14,000 to Shuffle Duncan for his Red Garter Dance Hall. Jim thinks it's a bad loan and demands repayment by Saturday. He says he's going to call in an auditor, and sends for Hoppy to help. Pierce is knifed in the back. Hoppy and California see dance hall girl Margo take the knife behind the saloon. He tells Scotty he'll have to do something daring to get a confession. He tells the sheriff that Scotty can identify the voice of the killer, then sets a trap in the house to get a quick reaction. Scotty is the killer, jealous of his brother. [Swart]

044 Death Runs Dry

18 April 1949 28 October 1950 WB & JD
Old friend Jim Dodge sends an SOS to Hoppy. Since the drought, he's been unable to make mortgage payments. The Range Association is putting in irrigation, but can't meet the deadline because of a series of accidents. Charlie Garrett, the ranch foreman, doesn't get along with Hoppy. Jose Blackfeather, a ranch hand, disappears. Dodge is found shot dead by a .270 and Blackfeather is accused. Hoppy is suspicious, though, that Garrett has a new rifle. Hoppy says that by his will, Dodge left the ranch to Garrett. Lawyer Sam Conway, however, says there was a later will leaving it to Kay Darling, granddaughter of a friend of Dodge's. She shows up, driving a Duryea Special. She says she plans to sell the ranch. There's further violence. Hoppy suspects there's oil on the land. It turns out Conway and his law clerk Nat Shively conspired to kill Dodge, and brought in Darling as a fake. [Ashkenazie]

045 Melody of Murder

19 April 1949 4 November 1950 WB & JD
Stagecoach-bound for Pleasant Dale, Hoppy and California are riding with a Chinese scholar, Wong Lee. The stage crashes. Hoppy notices money in a bag around Wong's neck. The driver is gone; the stage was sabotaged. In town, Red Cheevers engineered the robbery, which failed because of Hoppy's presence. Hoppy and California eat at the saloon and talk with Eddie, the piano player. Hoppy says he took piano lessons, as a boy.

Wong discusses buying a ranch from Cheever. Wong is killed in his room. We Ling, the Chinese laundryman, is suspected of the killing. Cheever and his henchman Pete have a falling out. But Hoppy accuses Eddie of killing Wong. [Swart]

046 The King of Spades

25 April 1949 11 November 1950 WB & JD
The compiler has not heard this program.

047 Hoppy Takes the Bull by the Horns

2 May 1949 18 November 1950 WB & JD
Hoppy's relaxing in a hammock, California's sputtering about having to relieve the cook at the Bar-20. Hoppy suggests a trip to Silver Creek where he'd like to buy old man Parker's prize bull, Hereford Giant. Parker refused to sell the bull when he was alive. But now he's dead and his son's willing to sell it for \$4,000, about a third of its value. At Parker's ranch, Hoppy and California learn that Parker's daughter Ruth is married to a man named Jack, who wants to liquidate the ranch (to pay off gambling debts) and go back to Denver. Ruth wants to hold onto the ranch, and the bull. Lawyer Curtis says there will be trouble over the deal. Parker's wife had left years before, taking the son with her. Parker raised Ruth. There is some suspicion about young Parker, but he has the right answers to all the questions. Jack tries to sell yearlings to Hoppy without Ruth knowing. Farmhand Hank [DuVal in a second role?] threatens Hoppy. Young Parker is found dead. On his body Hoppy finds a letter addressed to Lige Drafer. The bull money is missing. Hoppy soon reveals the killer: Curtis. He finds the murder weapon in the bull's manger. Curtis was going to split the ranch with Drafer, who was impersonating Parker (with coaching from Curtis) until Drafer got greedy. [Swart]

048 Dead or Alive

9 May 1949 25 November 1950 WB & JD
After competing in a rodeo in Amarillo, Hoppy's pockets are full of prize money. Heading back to the Bar-20, he and California come upon riders. Sheriff Thompson and a posse say three convicts broke out of the pen, killing a guard. One, Brady, was wounded. The other two are mean killers. Hoppy once prospected with "Hardshell Hank" Brady. Hank later killed a man and went to prison. Hoppy figures the fugitives may be hiding at an old claim. They spy Eddie Brady, trying to get medicine to his father. They follow him to Old Smokestack Mountain. In a cafe, Griggs, a convict, gets the drop on them. Hoppy talks Hank into releasing them, saying the reward money for his capture will go to his son. There's a big fight. As they see Eddie off on a train east, California says he learned there was no reward money; instead, Hoppy gave some of his prize money to Eddie, telling him it was money his father had put aside for him years ago. [Swart]

049 Mystery at Three Oaks

16 May 1949 2 December 1950 WB & JD
The town of Three Oaks withered when the mine closed. Hank Butler's Black Deuce salon is still open. Jim Acorn offers to buy Butler's 5,000 shares of stock in the old White Lady gold mine. Butler sees a note from Tyrol Investment of Denver saying it will pay \$2 a share. Acorn offered 50 cents. Butler decides to get the 5,000 shares of Curly Waters, 10,00 shares of Clem Higby and 5,000 shares of Hopalong Cassidy and make a big profit. He vows to "handle this Cassidy like he's never been handled before." Hoppy and California ride into Three Oaks. Sheriff Curtis says Waters' shares were stolen. Hoppy says the mine is full of shale and rock. Butler offers to buy Hoppy's mine shares, but Hoppy refuses. After visiting Higby, the cowboys find Acorn on the trail, dead. Hoppy learns Acorn was really George Watt, a sharper from Denver. There is no Tyrol Investment. It is all a scam. There's a big stakes poker game at the Black Deuce. Hoppy knows the trick Butler (alias Jim Paget, a card shark) will

play, and wins the game. He accuses Higby of killing Acorn; the two were in on the scheme together. [Swart]

050 Plague of Parson's Folly
24 May 1949 9 December 1950 WB & JD
North of the Bar-20 is the town of Parson's Folly, where a religious group settled years before only to disperse when gold turned out to be fool's gold. The cowboys come upon an oldtimer who's been shot in the back. Old Swede mumbles something about a mine. The cowboys meet Widow Martin, who feeds them and tells them the legend of Parson's Folly. Hoppy goes to town to tell Sheriff Connors about the drygulching. The sheriff says there's a gang at work in the area. Alice and Timothy Willington come in on the stage from Boston. She's the niece of Ben Henson, Old Swede. He'd sent her word he'd discovered a silver mine. Hoppy becomes suspicious. At the church in Folly, Hoppy and California find a mechanism in the floor; there's a room below, used by the gang. The sheriff is more interested in raising pigeons than in chasing the gang. Hoppy is disgusted. California would rather eat another of the widow's pies. The cowboys find the Willingtons are prisoners of the gang. A gang member knows nothing of the silver mine map, which his boss took from Mrs. Willington. The boss turns out to be the widow; Hoppy suspected she cooked so many pies to feed gang members. [Swart]

051 Mystery at the Diamond Z
30 May 1949 16 December 1950 WB & JD
Hoppy and California stop for a meal at the Black Ace Saloon and Cafe in Gill's Pass before returning to the Bar-20. The find men arguing over a mortgage. Deuce Davis claims he will own the ranch of Brill, the Diamond Z, as \$4,000 is due. But Brill says he's selling for \$10,000 to someone else, because he's been repeatedly shot at and his horse was just killed. Brill's selling to Littlejohn. Ranch hands Hal and Buck have been stealing Brill's cattle, but they decide it's time to get out. At the ranch, Brill's cooking a meal for Hoppy, California and the Sheriff when someone shoots and kills Littlejohn in an adjacent room. The sheriff shoots Davis, who's running away. But Hoppy wonders what Brill's dog was doing all this time, and eventually reveals a rope-rigged gun which the dog set off, establishing an alibi for Brill, who really killed Littlejohn to save his ranch and get the money at the same time. [Swart]

A 23 December 1950 episode may not have aired, based on an attempt to match 104 episodes to 105 dates; examining episodes in thirteen-program increments; and looking at Show 104, a holiday episode which recorded, but didn't air until the very end of the series.

052 The Golden Lure
6 June 1949 30 December 1950 WB & JD
Herding cattle to El Campo, Hoppy and California [last appearance by DuVal] stop at the Bar-8 to see old friend Smiley Haynes. Rustlers have been robbing him blind, Haynes says, and his water holes have turned to alkali. He's going to sell his ranch to neighbor Judge Flint. Would Hoppy escort his daughter Connie back from El Campo? he asks. Hoppy and California, expecting a ten-year-old, find instead a nineteen-year-old woman. "We were expecting a foal but she turned out to be a filly," Hoppy remarks. Returning to the ranch, they find Smiley has been shot. he dies muttering "Rustlers." Connie decides to sell to the judge even though Hoppy is convinced he's found gold nuggets at a water hole. Assayer Doc Blackwell says it's fool's gold. Hoppy believes he pulled a switch and is in cahoots with Flint. Old desert rat Dusty Jones tells Hoppy he sold some of his nuggets to Haynes. Hoppy then knows that Haynes was salting the waterhole in order to get \$20,000 from the judge, who is behind the rustling. The sale goes through, and Hoppy has the sheriff arrest Flint and his foreman. [Ashkenazie]

053 Case of the Last Word
6 February 1950 6 January 1950 WB & AC
At Trail Center, 100 miles west of the Bar-20, California [with Clyde returning to the part] sputters and rants about being so far from the ranch. Hoppy says he'll get stale if he doesn't move around. Andrew Filmore tells them bank robberies are hurting small ranchers. Hoppy shoots a robber in the act, Willy Cranbaugh, kid brother of Bart Cranbaugh, a big cattleman. Bart is powerful, and vengeful, saying he will run Hoppy and "this whiskered specimen you call your partner" out of town on a rail. The sheriff arrests the heroes for murdering a bank guard; Hoppy's glove is found near the body. Hoppy and California escape. A masked woman gets the drop on them; she's Julie Filmore. Julie is certain Bart's behind the robberies. She'd been trying to get information from Willy. She helps Hoppy set a trap. The sheriff and Bart were in on the robberies; Julie and a posse show up in time to save Hoppy and California's bacon. It's the woman who always has the last word, comments Hoppy. [Alan Whitser]

054 Bad Medicine at Rimrock
8 February 1950 13 January 1951 WB & AC
After a long ride, Hoppy and California arrive at the Rutledge ranch near Rimrock in time for the fiddle music, cake and Beth's eighteenth birthday party. Her father Jeff is killed. The sheriff and Doc Weaver suspect Jimmy Bolton. Jeff apparently didn't like Jimmy, who was courting Beth. Jimmy claims that his gun, which is the murder weapon, was stolen. The sheriff arrests Jimmy. Hoppy finds the whole business peculiar. Killing time, California becomes an artist, doodling mustaches and beards on wanted poster faces in the sheriff's office. Hoppy joins him, saying, "Who knows, maybe one of us is another Rembrandt." "Rembrandt, what outfit's he with?" responds California. Soon Hoppy knows who his killer is: Doc. Hoppy says he was black-mailing Rutledge, who had a criminal past. Yup, Rembrandt solved the case, says California. "Rembrandt? What's his outfit?" asks the sheriff. "Rembrandt Cassidy of the Bar-20, yessir," says California. [Robert T. Smith]

055 The Frightened Town
13 February 1950 20 January 1951 WB & AC
There's hatred and violence in the town of Bledsoe. Stuart Saxon and his men are holed up at one end of town, Ralph and Lafe Lane at the other. Dr. John Morgan must go treat a wounded Ralph Lane, but his wife Celeste is frightened he will be killed. At Marty Bradshaw's general store, Hoppy says he will go with the doc, and when California tells him men are waiting for him to go onto the street, Hoppy replies, "You know, California, there are times when you're right handy to have around." Saxon's gunmen Dude Wintram, Jeff Ennis and Reb Maxwell have orders to shoot the doc. Hoppy intervenes, killing two of them. Hoppy goes back and forth between the two camps, trying to figure out what started the feud, and trying to stop it. Bradshaw, it turns out, is behind it all, figuring to take over ranch land. [Buckley Angell]

056 The Killer in Black
15 February 1950 27 January 1951 WB & AC
Finding a cool stream under cottonwood trees, Hoppy and California take a relaxing bath. When they climb out, someone has traded a set of black duds for California's clothes. He puts them on, and a posse shows up, claiming he's killed old Bill Ryan of the weekly *Gazette*. Hoppy pulls his guns and whisks California away. They head for Coyote Junction to figure out the crime. Hoppy talks with Ryan's wife, learning he'd been printing stories about Nick Lyman of the Lucky Chance Casino and about the sheriff's inability to solve a series of robberies. California and Hoppy are arrested, though eventually escape. They finally find that Sam Fleason, the banker's son-in-law, was

behind things. [An apparent plot glitch -- Hoppy, after all, is known in the movies for wearing black -- is resolved by California commenting that this was the first time in 10 years that Hoppy wasn't dressed all in black.] [Sidney Wirsky and Wayne Yarnell]

057 Coming Attraction Murder

20 February 1950 3 February 1951 WB & AC

Hoppy and California visit McDonald McDonald who runs a hotel in Quincy. He's hired a singer, Jacqueline Dupres, to entertain, but receives threatening notes. Banker John Barrows and Doctor Baker talk over the threat. Mme. Dupres arrives. She calls California "Fuzzy Face." She refuses to leave because of the notes. Despite California guarding her door, someone shoots through the window and hits her maid. Hoppy reveals the killer: Baker, her former husband. He didn't want her to discover him in his new identity. [Perdham]

058 Wet Beef and Dry Bones

22 February 1950 10 February 1951 WB & AC

Hoppy and California return from Mexico by way of Paliverde. California is superstitious and wants to avoid Massacre Canyon. Molly Ender, wife of Deputy Dave Ender, says she's going to the canyon to find her husband, who's been missing there for a week. He went in with rancher Bob Travers to look for rustled cattle, though no one has mentioned cattle being taken locally. Hoppy and California go along and meet up with Travers, who says a mysterious force grappled with him. They also meet Jared Stone, who's living in the canyon and is an archaeologist. At night they hear riders -- ghosts of Indians killed in the canyon? Hoppy eventually shows that Travers is behind the legends about the canyon; he and his men are using it to run wet cattle being rustled in Mexico. Dave shows up, hurt but alive. [Gibson Scott Fox]

059 Black Grass Fever

27 February 1950 17 February 1951 WB & AC

Hoppy and California are in Montana looking to borrow or buy cattle to meet a market contract. California's just played a prank in Cheyenne, making the sheriff dance to a lady piano player's music. At old Matt Blaine's ranch, they see dead cattle. Veterinarian Lathrop says they were infected with black grass fever, though Hoppy can find no mention of the disease in medical books. Hoppy thinks it's an interesting coincidence that Lathrop showed up when he did. He learns that if the ranchers, suffering losses, pull out, banker Jeff Atkins will take over their mortgaged lands. In town, the banker tells Hoppy there's no land for sale. Hoppy and California witness Lathrop in a card game, dealing from the bottom of the deck to a young player, then accusing the player of cheating and shooting him. California takes the dead tenderfoot's wallet, which shows he worked for the Plainsland Railroad. The cowboys find a salt lick bearing poison. Hoppy is framed for killing the druggist; California frees him. They confront the banker, who stood to profit from a new rail line. [Wirsky and Yarnell]

060 The Cold Country

28 February 1950 24 February 1951 WB & AC

A winter blizzard has Lode Hill in the Dakotas in its grip. The town is swollen in population by a recent gold strike. Hoppy keeps warm near a woodstove in the hotel. California says they should have stayed in Arizona. Luke Granger is in trouble; he's wanted for killing his wife, Jane. Her sister, Myra McKenna, says she wants to help Luke, who plans to go into hiding. Luke and Jane had a public fight before she was found dead. To keep Luke in town, Drag Morley wants to hold onto Granger's son Neddy. Luke surrenders to Bat Kingman, the town marshal. But Morley stirs up a lynch mob. Hoppy intervenes. He talks with Luke's friend Joey Edmunds and finds what's left of the bullet that killed Jane. It's a .38. Luke slips out of jail and Myra says

he tried to shoot her. Hoppy has a hunch, and finds a .38 at Myra's house. She hated her sister, he says, and wanted control of Neddy. She and the marshal framed Luke. [Angell]

061 Buckshot Badman

6 March 1950 3 March 1951 WB & AC

The cowboys are headed for Pinto Springs on a hot August day. "I'm so thirsty I believe I could drain the Rio Grande in one swaller," comments California. The see a man lying beside the trail. He's been killed by shotgun. It's Jack Folton, a rider for Dave Daniels' Double D. Daniels, too, was killed by a shotgun blast and his daughter Helen is running the spread. Daniels and neighbor Owen Ransom were partners in a mine deal. Ransom says the mine's gone bad, but he paid the last \$4,000 to Daniels the night he died. His foreman Duke Snyder swears to it. The money turned up missing. Suspects include Daniels' foreman, Will Banning, who's in love with Helen, against Daniels' wishes. Folton left a clue in the sand: a drawing of a double shafted arrow, pointing toward Ransom's place. It means nothing to the sheriff. Hoppy and California bunk at the Double D and learn from Chinese cook Chung that something fishy has been going on at a toolshed on the Ransom ranch. They investigate and are trapped inside. Someone torches the building. They escape. Hoppy confronts Ransom and says he was cheating Daniels. He says the clue Fulton left pointed -- to Chung. It was an attempt to draw his Chinese name. [Smith]

062 Boss of Vinegar Bend

8 March 1950 10 March 1951 WB & AC

On their way back to the Bar-20 from the high plains, Hoppy and California come upon two Conestoga wagons driven by feisty Mrs. Oates and her daughter Judy. They're heading for ranch land her late husband paid banker Caldwell Scaggs, the Boss of Vinegar Bend, \$11,000 cash plus \$5,000 mortgage for. Hoppy says it's no good, it's in the Badlands, and they've been swindled. Hoppy talks with Scaggs, who scoffs at returning the money. Hoppy recognizes his assistant, Nick Toler, as a hired killer. Hoppy hatches a plot. He and California round up enough maverick cattle to sell to pay off the mortgage. But someone fires shots and drives them over a cliff. Hoppy then decides to use Scaggs' greed against him. He has California salt a canyon wall, then pretend gold has been found. Scaggs falls for it, and trades his bank to the widow for the ranch. Hoppy then shows up the killer. Mrs. Oates, he declares, is the new Boss of Vinegar Bend. [Perdham]

063 Land of the Gunhawks

13 March 1950 17 March 1951 WB & AC

Owen Lomax, son of an old friend of Hoppy's, has been in a shootout. Thinking he's killed a man, he fled and joined the Three Jacks Gang. The man didn't die, and Hoppy and California hope to persuade Owen to return home. Outside of town, they help a man, Don Patrick, who's being shot at by a gang. Don Patrick suggests they take on identities of bad men if they expect to get by with Three Jacks, who always wears a mask. Hoppy becomes "Wild Bill Cassidy from Big Bend" and California becomes "Fingers Carlson the Horse Thief." In town, they meet one of the gang men, Link Scofield, and Weepy, the bartender. Hoppy can't talk Lomax into coming back, and he gives the cowboys away. Scofield imprisons them, and makes plans to take them on a raid. Their dead bodies left behind will confuse the authorities. The raid is thwarted and Hoppy saved from sure death. Don Patrick turns out to be an undercover lawman, and Lomax has a change of mind and helps at the last minute. Three Jacks, it turns out, is Weepy the bartender. [Perdham]

064 The Devil's Drum

15 March 1950 24 March 1951 WB & AC

Hoppy and California are traveling through a pass near Saguaro on the Mexican border, and stop by a remote cabin. They find

the shack empty -- but a fresh meal set out on the table. The Sheriff is looking for Jose Morena, wanted for a killing. But according to his wife Linda, he was framed for the crime. Her father disapproved of their marriage, and has offered a reward for her return. The sheriff says a note left by the dead man, in Spanish, incriminates Morena. Hoppy suspects the note was written from a dictionary; it has the wrong gender for one of the words. A family friend, "Uncle Charlie" Grinnell, offers help. Chappy Doon, the deputy, is also involved. As the situation intensifies, California says to Hoppy, "Be real careful, unless your insurance is made out to me." Doon plays a double hand, incriminating the sheriff. Hoppy doesn't trust the deputy, but Uncle Charlie turns out to be the villain.

065 Hoppy Elects a Sheriff

20 March 1950 31 March 1951 WB & AC
There's going to be an election in Mills Valley and Joe Benson is a reform candidate running against incumbent Sheriff Meeker. Mary, daughter of Hoppy's old friend John Stebbins, is trying to help Benson. They say Meeker always brings in illegal voters in the afternoon to tip the balance his way. Dr. Jack's hawking Chippewa Indian Elixir, meanwhile, from a medicine show set up on Mary's vacant lot. He leaves town without paying the \$30 due in rent. Hoppy goes to collect, and is given a check. When he gets back to town, the ink has disappeared. This gives Hoppy an idea. He's been asked to be on a poll committee. In the afternoon, the ink bottle smashes and Hoppy substitutes a new one. When the votes are counted, it's 103 for Benson, 97 for Meeker, nine blank. Benson gives away his plan when he swears at the cowpokes who were supposed to vote for him. Hoppy says he had California pour some of Dr. Jack's elixir into the ink bottle. It worked just long enough to do the job before fading. [Richard T. Parker]

066 Peril at Pier 19

21 March 1950 7 April 1951 WB & AC
Hopalong and California are in San Francisco to deliver stock to Australian rancher Caldwell, who plans to ship it to his home on the *Pacific Queen*. With Caldwell are his daughter Ellen and her fiancée Frederick Wainwright. They find Caldwell unconscious in his room; he's been robbed of the cattle money. Antonio Russo, Caldwell's restaurateur friend, had visited the ship, otherwise there are no outside suspects. Hoppy wonders about Hank Grossman, the third mate who's been claiming sickness. Grossman and a confederate attack Hoppy and California on the dock, and take them out in a boat to drop them in the harbor. The cowboys win a fight, and return ashore. Hoppy reveals that the ship's captain heard about the cattle money by listening through a ventilator, and put Grossman up to the robbery.

067 Death Crosses the River

27 March 1950 14 April 1951 WB & AC
Hoppy and California have just delivered breeding stock near San Antonio and are looking forward to a few days off. They take the stage. An untalkative passenger accuses chatty California of having "flabby lips." Gunmen hold up the stage, kill a man named Parker and take what they think is his bag. It was really full of Hoppy's clothes. The other bag, which Hoppy has, is full of money. The man was accountant for Brunnell's Importing Co. in Laredo. The cowboys persuade a traveling man, Montague, to take the body into town. Montague in flowery language insults California. Hoppy recognizes quotes from Shakespeare. In town, the cowboys have a run-in with Kels, trail boss for Brunnell. A man named Stuart tells them gun-running is going on. He later turns out to be a Texas Ranger. Hoppy is surprised that Brunnell says his money's been returned; Hoppy knows he still has it. Kels later shows up and demands the money. Stuart intervenes. The suspicion is that Kels is smuggling guns into Mexico. But Montague turns out to be the smuggler.

068 Stagecoach West

29 March 1950 21 April 1951 WB & AC
In desolate, flat tableland country, Hoppy and California see vultures circling overhead. They come upon a burned out horse change station for the stagecoach line. Keeper Jim Newton is dead. California thinks it was Indians. Hoppy is sure Chief Koledo would keep a tight rein on his braves. In town, they meet up with Clay Pearson, who has a grudge against Hoppy. Pearson's recently killed the deputy -- in what's said to be a fair fight. The stage arrives, its guard dead, shot by raiders. The riders believe they were attacked by Apaches. Col. Stanley is on his way to the fort. His arrogant daughter Sally is along with him, as are a doctor, a drummer and others. There's also \$50,000 in gold on board. Hoppy volunteers to go along as guard. The stage is attacked but takes refuge at a remote station. California spots one of the attackers, lying dead in a gulch. He has blond hair. Hoppy has a suspicion, and baits a trap for the Doc, who that night lets some of the renegades in the station. Hoppy and the others are ready for them. Doc, it turns out, is the notorious outlaw raider Bentrill.

069 The Unwilling Outlaw

5 April 1950 28 April 1951 WB & AC
The Panamint Kid, sentenced to hang, escapes jail and shows up at the Bar-20, looking for help. He says he's really Johnny Gates from Grubstake, a mining town in Colorado. He was framed and jailed. Sheriff Caswell, however, has gotten a letter from Grubstake saying they never heard of Gates. Gates says his dad was one of the richest men there. Fearing for his life, he escapes the hands of Deputy Jake Sims. Hoppy says Jake wouldn't be so careless; something's up. Hoppy and California ride to Grubstake. Finding evidence, they head back home in the company of the lawyer Danvers but two thugs, Spade and Burke, take the evidence. Hoppy doesn't seem to be upset. The thugs come again, but find nothing. Hoppy eventually reveals that Danvers was behind it all. Hoppy hid a second set of papers in Danvers' saddle. Danvers wanted to take over Gates' father's estate. [Fox]

070 Kidnapper's Trail

3 April 1950 5 May 1951 WB & AC
Buck Peters is expecting a guest -- Sen. Hiram Sprague and Cathy, his twenty-year-old daughter. Buck invites lawyer Sam Fuller to come to dinner; he's an old friend of Sprague's. Hoppy and California meet the stage. But Cathy's been kidnapped and there's a \$50,000 demand signed by "The Whip." The brand on one of the horses ridden by a kidnapper was from Ward McCauley's outfit, the Rafter M. McCauley says his men weren't involved. Hoppy wonders if the kidnappers stayed close by, and finds them in an old shack on the Bar-20. There's a tussle with the kidnapper, after Hoppy sets a trap. Fuller, it turns out, was behind it all. [Smith]

071 Bandit of Blackton Bend

19 September 1950 12 May 1951 WB & AC
Blackton Bend is a bleak town on the Texas-Oklahoma line. Felons are known to avoid the law in one end of town be stepping over the the state line into the other. Newt Damron, who runs the Colorado Saloon, and Matt Hardisty, who runs the *Clarion* newspaper, are enemies who've agreed to a fist fight. Hopalong and California ride into town and stop to talk with Luge Watkins at the post office. California trips over a keg of blasting powder, which Watkins has refused to ship for Clem Peebles. Watkins shows the cowboys a new wanted poster for James Carlisle, a left-handed shooter said to have held up post offices in Dodge City. There's a \$500 reward. Hoppy knows Hardisty was recently thrown by a horse and wouldn't fare well in a fight. Old Man Hardisty says the reform newspaper isn't making money. Helen Carlisle asks Hoppy to find her brother Jim in

Rimrock Country and prove his innocence. The post office blows up. Watkins is killed. A metal chest with \$10,000 is missing. It fits Hardisty's m.o. Hoppy takes off his guns when he visits Ma Fife's boarding house. Damron, who's been deputized, confronts him there. In the mountains, Hoppy comes upon the kid and offers his help, but Damron intervenes. Later in town, Hoppy learns that Matt Hardisty was behind the robberies; he needed money to pay gambling debts. He gave himself away by a comment to Hoppy about the wanted man being left-handed; Hoppy knew that only the one who blew up the post office could have seen the wanted poster.

072 Hook, Line and Murder

20 September 1950 19 May 1951

WB & AC

Hoppy and California are enjoying a fishing vacation on the Big Chama River in New Mexico. They've bought a canoe from the Navajos and are looking for a likely spot to catch trout. "Hot diggety, trout look out. Did you hear that, Hoppy? I'm a poet," cackles California. Whitey Black, who has a 1000-acre ranch, says he's looking for his partner Andy Silman, who's been gone for two days, fishing. California's line snags the body; Silman's been shot. In town, Hoppy meets Miss Gladys, a bargirl at the saloon, and Jack Queen, owner of a neighboring ranch. Hoppy braces Queen for his ill-treatment of Gladys. Later, Queen makes a new offer to Black for his ranch, then knocks him down when he refuses. On the trail, the cowboys meet Jocelyn, who they'd met previously, under the weather, at the saloon. He's been shot, and utters something about "Queen, gold," then dies. The clues point to Queen, but Hoppy is doubtful. Jocelyn was a geologist working for Queen. At first it seemed there was gold on Black's ranch; then it turned out there wasn't. Black was the murderer, in partnership with Gladys. The ranch had value in its lumber, useful to a railroad coming through. Black gives himself away by giving Andy's rod to California; it should have been lost in the woods. Queen apologizes to Hoppy for his belligerence. California smokes a cigar Black gave him, and chokes, "Hoppy, I think I'm gonna die."

073 The Phantom Panther

22 September 1950 26 May 1951

WB & AC

Hoppy and California are on their way through mesa country when they come upon Pop Purvis, guarding his cattle. A panther which no one has seen has been killing and stampeding cattle, he reports. Purvis had hopes of selling off enough of the herd to pay off his mortgage to banker Clark Loomis and to give a present to his daughter Jane, who's marrying soon. Folks are scared. Ranchers meet in the town of Broken Arrow. Thad Dixon is one of the ranchers. "Trouble, here we come," sighs California. Purvis's ranch was once an old Indian medicine ground, and some suspect bad medicine has returned. Hoppy scoffs at the "granny talk" and vows to get the panther. Purvis is killed by the panther. Jane is discouraged. Loomis and Dixon urge her to sell the ranch but she decides to stay. "Yipee, what a gal," exclaims California. The cowboys go after the panther and are caught in a stampede. Hoppy sets a trap and proves Dixon is the panther. He used a glove with steel claws on it to fake the panther killings.

074 Hoppy Plays a Hunch

25 September 1950 2 June 1951

WB & AC

Buck Peters has given the boys a couple of weeks off and they call on old friends of California's at the Wilsons' Flying W Ranch outside of Navajo Springs. Sara and daughter Frances, nineteen, report that Chet Wilson has gone to pay the last \$4,000 due on a loan from neighbor Farley Vincent of the Rocking V. Chet rides in, hurt. Someone stole the money. Suspects include Vincent or Grant Barrett, his foreman, who's sweet on Fran, against Chet's wishes. Vincent won't give an extension on the loan. Hoppy puts an ad in the newspaper for missing saddlebags. He baits a trap and nets Vincent. Only two copies of the

paper were printed; one for the Wilsons, and one delivered to Vincent's ranch.

075 A Jailer Named Satan

27 September 1950 9 June 1951

WB & AC

Hoppy and California are riding back to the Bar-20 on a hot day. They stop in Paradise, New Mexico. Brian Gahagan warns them not to have anything to do with Satan, Satan Blue, the sheriff. Satan catches up with Gahagan, though, and acting as judge sentences him to jail. Gahagan is desperate not to go. Hoppy has a confrontation with a man named Calendar, Satan's foreman. "No one crosses Satan Blue and lives, savvy?" says Satan. Hoppy and California leave town and come upon a work crew. They're men Satan has sentenced to jail. They're doing work for his ranch. The cowboys are arrested and forced onto the work gang, building an irrigation system to bring water from the hills. Hoppy eventually escapes and brings help to break up Satan's scheme.

076 Man in the Yellow Mask

29 September 1950 16 June 1951

WB & AC

On the way to Brownsville to pick up a herd of coasters -- little Gulf of Mexico cattle -- Hoppy is carrying a sight draft for \$7,000. He hopes to pick up a crew to drive a herd back to the Bar-20 to fatten. He and California come upon a man who's been shot from his horse. The dead man is Sam Wilkins. His money is gone. Jarod Stokes of the Circle S tells them this is another victim of the robber, the Man in the Yellow Mask. Stokes asks Hoppy to capture the bandit, who is really his son, Terry. Hoppy and California are told where to look for Terry. Before they find him, California is caught in a dead fall. Hoppy gets him out. Terry braces them, and explains that he's not really the bandit, but is posing as the bandit in order to trap the man, who killed a good friend of his. The real Yellow Mask shows up and takes Hoppy's check. Terry escapes to bring help. Yellow Mask takes Hoppy and California into the hills, but thwarts Hoppy's plan to leave a trail of cartridges from his belt. Terry rides into town, but his father won't believe his story. Hoppy and California show up, and reveal a man named Bailey as being Yellow Mask.

077 Run, Sheep, Run

2 October 1950 23 June 1951

WB & AC

On a spring afternoon in the San Demas Valley, Hoppy and California ride onto the Box L, Matt Liggett's spread. Angry ranchers including Kelly are there, complaining that Liggett sold off the north end of the valley, including water rights, to Clint Slagel, a sheep man. Liggett admits it's true; that his foreman Sime Argent made the deal in his name, as he'd given his power of attorney. Hoppy calls on Slagel, who plans to sell the water rights back to the neighboring ranchers at a high price. Slagel sees that Hoppy could be dangerous, so sends Argent to kill him. Through a ruse, California and Hoppy capture Sime. California spreads the word that Hoppy is dead. He rouses a crowd to take after Slagel. Then California calls on Slagel, tells him what's up and offers what little money he has to buy the rights back. Slagel takes off, and meets up with Argent, who's escaped his bonds. Argent says it's all been a hoax. Slagel rides back to confront the cowboys, and holds California hostage until he signs back the deed. Kelly and the men overwhelm the sheepman. Hoppy says California already signed the deed back to Liggett.

078 Hoppy Meets His Match

4 October 1950 30 June 1951

WB & AC

After delivering a herd of cattle in Texas, Hoppy and California are riding the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad back home. Arrogant Princess Iselda Marguerite Stutgart tries to have them removed from the train car; they refuse. Then she recognizes Hoppy as the long lost Prince William of the Royal Family of Burgavia. Pasquale, a gunman, forces the cowboys to

go to her ranch. Heck Devlin, another of her gunman, is jealous of Hoppy. They meet Papa Googie, her uncle, at dinner at her huge ranch, the Crossed Arrow. Papers are found in Hoppy's saddlebags which suggest he's the prince. The princess offers to give \$1 million to Hoppy -- once they marry! "She's as loco as two ringtail buzzards in a barrel of White Mule," comments California. The wedding takes place at gunpoint. Hoppy spends his wedding night tied up. He talks Devlin into letting him go. The cowboy learns that the princess stands to receive a \$5 million dowry if she weds before she's twenty-one. But behind the deal is a plot by Pasquale and the princess's foreman, Lyons, to get her out of the country so they can rustle the cattle on her ranch. "You're the one thing we didn't think of," Pasquale scoffs at Hoppy, "an honest man." Devlin intervenes. There's a shootout. Devlin admits the marriage was phony; the preacher was really an undertaker. Hoppy agrees to give the bride away when Devlin and the princess wed.

079 Apaches Don't Need Guns

6 October 1950 22 September 1951

WB & AC

Camped near Fort Los Alamos, Arizona, after delivering cattle to San Carlos Reservation, California is agitated about Nogodo and Apaches on the warpath. A man staggers in with a Pawnee arrow in his back. He's a scout, Jody Breen. They take him to the fort which is in charge of Major Pencaro. Breen is the only survivor of his party, Gannon, the storekeeper, says. Vi Latimore, meanwhile, comes into the store and tells Walker she's decided not to sell him her ranch. Gannon says someone's selling guns to the Apaches. Hoppy challenges Pencaro's decision to try to attack the Apaches to the west. It turns out they have a large force to the east, and attack the fort. The Apaches, and Pawnees, have new Winchesters. Hoppy organizes a trap and cuts short the attack. Walker is the gun seller -- so he could buy up ranchland. [Perdham]

080 A Shot in the Dark

9 October 1950 29 September 1951

WB & AC

Riding through the town of Spurlock, Hoppy and California stop to see Grace, the niece of an old friend, Jim Reynolds. She's married to Frank Crawford, who runs a general store. Judge Bryan, who's now a lawyer, tells them Frank has been drinking and gambling to excess, and some have come to resent his condescending, Eastern manner and wealth. Hoppy finds Frank in a card game with Crip Farrell, owner of the Silver Sage Saloon, and Big Tom Gorman, who owns the other general store in town. Hoppy breaks up the game when Crawford accuses Farrell of cheating. Hoppy and California enjoy a steak dinner then return to their hotel room. They'd left their guns in the room, which was unlocked. Crawford is shot that night and Hoppy is suspected. Crawford's dog apparently chased the murderer. A lynch mob forms and California helps Hoppy escape. They circle back to town and get the dog, Colonel, which growls at Judge Brian. His motive for the killing: As Crawford's lawyer, he'd been embezzling money.

081 Gunhawk Convention

11 October 1950 6 October 1951

WB & AC

In eastern Arizona, Hoppy has delivered a herd and has \$10,000 in gold. He and California ride into Bismark to get a bank draft. Bismark is the home of Titus Tremaine's big empire. At the bank, Jack Savage and Caridew hold them up, take their money, slug them and throw them in to the street. The sheriff is dead. Crooks have taken over the town, including the Lawson twins, Dee and Dum, deadly killers. Townspeople are being held in an old mine. The big boss orders Hoppy and California disposed of. They're held in a brick kiln, their pants taken to discourage nightly wanderings. (California wears polka-dotted undershorts.) Sammy Atkins, a storekeeper, unties them. The ultimate goal of the bad men is to take a wagon load of silver bullion. The big man is Tremaine. [Perdham]

082 Gunfighter in Short Pants

13 October 1950 13 October 1951

WB & AC

Hoppy and California have just delivered brood mares to a ranch near Albuquerque, New Mexico. California is full of tall tales such as how close he was to Pat Garrett. He even claims to have shot Billy the Kid. They are braced by a boy, Beasley "Beans" Donnerwell. Maud Allan, who has been caring for him, says there's nothing to the kid's story that his father was shot by Drago. She's sweet on Drago. Beans vows vengeance. Drago dislikes the nesters who've settled in the headwaters of Yaqui Creek. Drago laughs off Hoppy's warning about the kid, and introduces his nephew, Junior Harlan. At a party, someone shoots Drago. Hoppy doubts Drago killed Donnerwell. Beans is jailed and Hoppy and California rescue him from a lynch mob. Hoppy concludes that someone is out to get Drago -- nephew and heir Junior, who's in cahoots with Greg, Drago's hand. California brags to the sheriff -- and who turns out to be Pat Garrett. [Perdham]

083 Songbird of Santa Fe

12 December 1950 20 October 1951

WB & AC

Hoppy and California are in Santa Fe because of a promise made to a dying man. California is smitten by pretty Lorraine Lacheur, the singer from Paris, who's in town to sing at the opera house built by Matt Kyle. Hoppy wants to deliver a diamond ring to Kyle -- it was given Hoppy by a jewelry drummer named Rodney before he died. Ace Destrel tries to trick Hoppy out of the diamond. Tex Lambert, deputy marshal, says Lacheur was killed by a tomahawk -- just like the one California carries. (He got it from the raider Bentrell.) California is missing -- being held outside of town by one of Destrel's men, Camden. When Hoppy figures it all out, he decides Kyle killed the singer because she rejected him. Destrel, who was enemies with Kyle, sided with him. Hoppy wins a shootout. [Angell]

084 Bayou Drums Mean Death

13 December 1950 27 October 1951

WB & AC

Hoppy and California deliver horses to Blanche Lavaseur in Louisiana and accept her invitation to stay at her plantation. She introduces them to her cousin Philippe Marquis Lavaseur. The field hands are restless because of voodoo, Blanche tells them. She's sweet on California. A house man, Jason, is killed and the Death Ruby, which Blanche intended to sell, is stolen. Someone puts a cottonmouth snake in Hoppy and California's room. Hagga, a witch, stirs up a voodoo rebellion which Hoppy manages to stop by becoming a flame-headed phantom. Hagga kills Philippe, who started the whole business. He'd already taken and sold the real ruby, leaving a fake. [Perdham]

085 Cleanup of Caribou Mesa

8 August 1951 3 November 1951

WB & AC

Riding in the high mesa country near Joshua Flats, Hoppy and California are mistaken for being Trigger Thompkins' rustlers and are nearly strung up -- until they're recognized. Glen Goff, a deputy, heads a posse of angry settlers. They explain that old Bill Culver's daughter Annie has been taken hostage by the gang. Bob Jeffrey, who's sweet on Annie, says she's well guarded. Hoppy and California say it's best if just the two of them sneak in to rescue Annie, first stampeding the herd to distract the rustlers. The gang has anticipated them, however, and captures them. They're locked in a bunkhouse. Hoppy tells California to take cartridges from his gunbelt. "Do it with your teeth, you've got 'em in, haven't yuh?" Hoppy says. California sputters and does as he's told, dropping the cartridges into the stove. When they go off, the guard rushes in and they overwhelm him. On their way out, California can't pass by a beef steak. It later comes in handy when Hoppy tells him to feed it to a guard dog to distract him. They get the drop on the rustlers.

086 Six Little Men Who Were Green

20 December 1950 10 November 1951

WB & AC

Hoppy and California are in Utah. They meet Jason Jones, who says he's headed for Wyoming. Two men brace Jones, and the next thing, he's fallen from the train. One of the men is Kansas Overill, a known killer. Hoppy can smell trouble "quicker 'n a mountain lion with a new litter," comments California. Jones was pushed off the platform by six little green men, the other man, Swinger, says cryptically. The sheriff is dubious of the charges made by Hoppy and California against the two men. "I've seen hound dogs with colic that would make better lawmen than that Todd," says California. Quiet Sam Miller shows up, looking for little green men. Hoppy catches Overill and Swinger searching Jones' belongings for three jade figurines. There's a rout and in the dark and someone -- probably Miller -- gets away with them. Jones, however, had hid one of the green men among California's belongings. Miller takes it, but is shot. Hoppy, California and the sheriff trail Overill and Swinger and capture them. All six men, when put together, offer a clue to a fortune left by a long-dead man. "100,00 inside turn head" is the clue. Hoppy finds inside one of the men the money -- all of it Confederate.

087 Junior Badman

28 February 1951 17 November 1951

WB & AC

Hopalong is in town looking for old Gus Snyder. A robber is holed up in the bank. Hoppy brings him out. He's a ten-year-old who goes by the name of Wildcat. Rather than leave him in jail, Hoppy takes him to the Bar-20 where California watches over the boy while Hoppy is away for couple of weeks. Returning, Hoppy meets a sputtering California, who complains of the tricks pulled by the youngster. Hoppy gives him a spanking. Mr. Pennywether, an old friend of Wildcat's, has a job on the ranch. He talks Wildcat into stealing the ranch money and they take off. When Wildcat sprains his ankle, Pennywether won't leave him. Wildcat pulls a gun when Hoppy and California show up. Wildcat confesses that he didn't steal his share of the money; he hid it in a Bible at the ranch house. Pennywether admits his guilt, but Hoppy tells him that if he'd admitted earlier on that he was really Gus Snyder, he could have had the money anyway. It's his, due from his brother's estate. Hoppy says the Bar-20 took over the brother's old ranch. Pennywether and Wildcat decide to strike off together.

088 Devil and El Diablo

26 February 1951 24 November 1951

WB & AC

Hoppy and California are on the eastern slope of Mount Diablo, waiting to meet a surveying party. Devil was the name of an outlaw who used to hang out there, but disappeared, Hoppy comments. Lt. Martin shows up, and says a slide has trapped others in the party. The three men climb back up the mountain and come upon Capt. Duncan, Lt. Waite and Maj. Epperly. Martin falls to his death; it was no accident as someone had chipped away at the ice ledge. Waite is murdered by knife. Hoppy backtracks to check a clue and returns in time to save California from the other two men. All are crooks who killed the real surveyors. Duncan is really Devil, come back for his treasure. He's been killing off others in his gang so he won't have to share in the loot. Duncan fires a gunshot and starts a snowslide which buries him.

089 Lawyer of Laredo

2 March 1951 1 December 1951

WB & AC

Hoppy and California are crossing the Broken M, largest cattle ranch in the world, belonging to the Mayo family. Jesse Mayo is the boss. Hoppy previously had a run-in with his cousin, Garth Mayo, the foreman. Jesse says his stubborn daughter, Joan, nineteen, wants to marry young Duke Faber. Duke is the son of the late Charlie Faber, who once saved Hoppy's life. He feels obliged to help Faber, who's being held by Mayo. Mayo asks

Hoppy to persuade Joan to come back to the ranch. Hoppy refuses. At night, Cassidy and Carlson (who carries a Bowie knife) free Faber. In town, Jesse Mayo is killed. Faber is accused. Marshal Matt Gilroy deputizes Hoppy and California to help. Garth Mayo has hired guns on his side. Lawyer Sanders McVey says Jesse's will leaves the ranch to Joan, when she reaches age thirty. Meanwhile, he is executor and plans to run it with Garth. Duke admits he was drunk and doesn't know if he shot Jesse. Putting several clues together, Hoppy concludes that McVey shot the rancher.

090

Secret in the Hill

5 March 1951

8 December 1951

WB & AC

The two cowboys in Chenango Pass country looking for Fred Benson's killer. Benson's parents, newly arrived in the West, have invested \$10,000 in what turned out to be a played-out gold mine. Fred, fresh out of engineering school, checked out the mine and with a smile on his face sent a message by way of "Packmule" Parker to a local storekeeper to give to his folks. The next time he was seen, he had been murdered. The message said he had found a dead mine. Storekeeper Rod Black offers to buy the mine for \$1,000. Hoppy decides the key to the puzzle is to be found in the mine itself, but when he and California go exploring, there is an explosion and they are trapped below ground. When they've freed themselves, the heroes brace Black and accuse him of murder. He changed one letter in Benson's note before passing it along. While it has no gold, the mine is full of lead.

091

Memory of Mace Melot

7 March 1951

15 December 1951

WB & AC

Hoppy and California stop in at the Silver Dollar, the biggest dance hall in Abilene. California is taken with a red-headed singer but Hoppy's more interested in finding Johnny Kenyon, an ex-Bar-20 rider. The singer, Carrie Dineen, mistakes Hoppy for a gunman and pulls a derringer and shoots. Mace Melot is the town marshal. He recalls seeing Hoppy years ago with pard Red Connors and Idaho Norton. He says Kenyon is working at the stockyards. Hoppy and California find Johnny at his hotel room, badly beaten. Also in the room is Carrie, stabbed to death. Johnny says he and Carrie were to wed. Hoppy urges Johnny to face the music, and he'll try to prove his innocence. There's a fire at the jail where Kenyon is held. Hoppy organizes a rescue. California gets a lead from the hotel clerk, Judd Meek, who says he saw someone go to Johnny's hotel room just before the killing. The killer eventually proves to be Melot, who killed Carrie because of jealousy. [Angell]

092

Spider Woman

9 March 1951

22 December 1951

WB & AC

Camped near the trail to Gold City, Hoppy and California save an old woman being pursued by horsemen led by Crutch. Crutch says three men have died because of her curses; while they speak, a fourth, Grady, falls dead. Hoppy and California escape with the woman, Annie Semple, called the Spider Woman. In town, they learn from Hilary St. John, manager of the Yankee Dandy gold mine, that Annie has a cabin near the mine but the country is dangerous at night. Hoppy and California go to investigate. California falls into a pit. It's the tunnel of an old mine. St. John later tells them it's the Eureka, which Annie's late husband had worked. Hoppy eventually figures out that there's a new vein of gold running through both mines and St. John is plotting to take them both over -- by killing mine share holders and placing the blame on Annie. Through a ruse, Hoppy tricks Crutch into telling on his boss. [Fox]

093

Killers of Lion Canyon

12 March 1951

29 December 1951

WB & AC

Riding into the Skeleton Mountains just west of the Bar-20, Hoppy is looking for an old friend, Ray Wilson, who's written that

the grazing is good there. Hoppy's considering bringing Bar-20 cattle onto the land. They meet Lou Rucker, who says he mistakenly shot at them thinking they were a mountain lion. Rucker tells them how to get into town, but they take another fork, toward Lion Canyon, and come upon a seriously hurt Wilson, who's been clawed by a lion. They take him to Paradise Flats, where Rucker says the storekeeper, Brody, is a doctor. Wilson's wife and son Jimmy arrive and say Brody's no doctor. All the homesteaders have been leaving, Mrs. Wilson says, because their herds have slowly been disappearing. They take Wilson to his home, but he needs medical attention. Wilson is kidnapped. Hoppy and California find him in a hole in the ground, an old mine, one end in the canyon, the other in town near Brody's store. Inside, they find cold storage and butchered meat. Jimmy rides into the cave with horses, distracting Rucker and Brody and Hoppy and California turn tables and capture them. [Mike Jackson]

094 The Wastrels of Juarez

14 March 1951 5 January 1952 WB & AC
The ranch is out of bacon and flour, so Hoppy and California ride into town. There's a mob outside the Cattlemen's Bank. Jed Cramer says the bank is going broke. Hoppy breaks up the group. John Newcomb, longtime president, says that's true, that his cashier Louis Caine and teller Ned Clayton took off with \$50,000 in cash. Hoppy agrees to chase the pair. In Juarez, Harlick, a gun tough, confronts them. They don't know what Clayton looks like, but he has blond hair. They find several men fitting the description. Hoppy persuades Caine to return to the bank, but they have to run a gauntlet of Harlick's men. In a card game, Hoppy spots Marple -- who's adept at stacking coins -- as the missing teller.

095 Gambler's Luck

19 March 1951 12 January 1952 WB & AC
Hoppy and California drive cattle to Ham Irish and his sister Emma's Horseshoe outfit in the Tetons. They had lost all their cattle in a freeze. This is a starter herd. It's too late, Emma tells them. The ranch belongs to the bank. Ham had to borrow \$10,000 for two weeks, and he pledged the range, buildings and water rights. He used the money to play poker. Jeff Randall, she says, cheated the money out of him. Randall's heading for Fort Benton to take a steamboat to St. Louis. Hoppy boards the ship. Randall's there with his daughter Mary, who needs an operation to restore her sight. [Captain Beck has DuVal's voice.] Hoppy doesn't condone cheating, but he doesn't know what to do. Randall says he's sorry, but he needs to care for his daughter. Hoppy exposes Mary as not being blind, but really Frisco Sal. He gets Ham's money back. [Fox]

096 Danger Wears Two Faces

21 March 1951 19 January 1952 WB & AC
A friend asks help recovering a herd of stolen beef taken into Big Bend country of West Texas. Hoppy and California come across Jasper, a tinware vendor, then a gunman, Lacy, who tells them that Duke Spengler has turned honest. Little Jack Pargo's the guilty one, he says, offering to help. Finally figuring out Spengler isn't as innocent as he claims, Hoppy enlists Pargo and his men to capture Spengler and Lacy. At the end of the story, California demonstrates a pig call. [Perdham]

097 California or Bust

23 March 1951 26 January 1952 WB & AC
Tom Andrews is being held at the Buffalo Ridge jail for killing Clete Mapes. Hoppy and others believe him innocent. California is sent a message to look for evidence to clear him. Judge Blackburn is about to pronounce sentence. Mapes was a line rider for Baron. Baron is after Tom's place. Tom says he was framed and that he's been on the outs with his brother Andy, who works for Baron. Andy says he's now on Tom's side. Andy

says California's disappeared, his horse showed up alone. Hoppy requests a delay in the sentencing. The judge says he can't delay, that Tom must hang. Hoppy and Andy ride out to where California's reportedly being held, but don't find him. [Topper has a brief whinny.] Mack, a Bar-20 rider, tells Hoppy and Sheriff Handley that Baron killed California and Shorty Saunders saw it. Baron gets the word -- and realizes he's being framed. Baron thinks Hoppy is playing into his hands. Baron produces California, to get the sheriff to arrest Hoppy. Hoppy says Andy was in with Baron on a scheme to hang Tom. California says he saw Baron kill Clete. California had horse troubles so couldn't report in from the north range. Hoppy told Blackburn his scheme. He told Andy California could only clear Tom, and not convict Baron -- a lie.

098 Death Comes Invited

26 March 1951 2 February 1952 WB & AC
Hoppy and California are in eastern Nevada, looking for a place to spend the night. California sings "Bury me Not on the Lone Prairie," and Hoppy says he sounds like he's gargled with tacks. A gunman takes Topper. The cowboys ride California's horse double into town. They learn that Jack Veno has robbed the bank and killed a teller. Sheriff Ike Cullum is shot on the trail. Deputy Johnny Mark kills one of Veno's henchmen. Hoppy and California meet saloon girl Geri and the owner, Washton, whom Hoppy suspects is behind the holdup. Hoppy sets a trap. He accuses Johnny of shooting the sheriff as a way of working his way into the job. Veno, dying, shoots Johnny and saves Hoppy. "He was a killer but there was good in him," Hopalong comments. California is so happy he could sing, and surprisingly, Cullum, on crutches, likes what he hears and joins in on dissonant harmony.

099 Bullfight

28 March 1951 9 February 1952 WB & AC
Dade Larkin, owner of the Box L, brags about upgrading his beef stock with new Hereford bulls. When one is shot, he blames new neighbor Tim Riley. Hy Philips of the Flat Iron helps California nab Riley, who denies the deed. Philips tells Riley to get out of the valley or he and other ranches will drive him off. Hoppy soon reveals that Dade himself is behind a ranch-grabbing scheme. "When a friend becomes a proven killer, friendship ends," Hoppy says at the end. [Fox]

100 Women of Windy Ridge

20 March 1951 16 February 1952 WB & AC
On their way to a Texas roundup, Hoppy and California stop off in western Oklahoma to see California's old friend Liz McCoy, who makes the best beef stew west of Topeka. They're greeted by a dynamite explosion. Liz has barricaded herself in her house. She's accused of stabbing the marshal to death. Hoppy gets Dolly Chester, leader of a reform movement in town, to guarantee Liz will get a fair trial but she dies by knife soon after being released on bail. Checking land records, Hoppy learns that Dolly is partner with gambler Fergal in an out-of-town casino. She led the reformers to clean up the town and get a monopoly on the gambling franchise for when trail herds start coming. [Angell]

101 Right Rope -- Wrong Neck

2 April 1951 23 February 1952 WB & AC
Fred Oakes has been sentenced to territorial penitentiary at Battery Rock, sentenced to hang for the murder of old judge Melthier. But the judge's death was really an accident, and Hoppy has secured a release signed by Gov. Martin. He and California ride to deliver it to the Warden Davis, only to learn Oakes has escaped, killed a guard. Did someone intercept the telegram from the governor? Does someone want Oakes to die? Hoppy tracks Oakes, and starts to take him back to the pen when guards Mahoney and Taggart accost them. Hoppy eventu-

ally deduces that Taggart was behind a scheme to kill the guard, Jackson, who was really an undercover man looking into a series of escapes from the prison. This was a way for Taggart to cover his trail. [Fox]

102 Stampede at Semple Crossing

4 April 1951 1 March 1952 WB & AC
Taking 2,000 head of cattle north, Hoppy and California and crew stop at Semple's Crossing. They expect to cross the river first, but Reb Moran, trail boss for the Lazy J, challenges Hoppy to a fight to see who goes first. Hoppy wins. "Silent Jim" Reed, the marshal, is killed and his deputy, Van Gleason, accuses Moran. Hoppy figures otherwise, though, and amidst dealing with a stampede, fingers Dr. Bradhurst of plotting to steal cattle in cahoots with Gillis Farrow, Moran's foreman. [Angell]

103 Cowtown Troubleshooters

10 August 1951 8 March 1952 WB & AC
Hopalong and California have spent three days in the saddle when they arrive in Mesa Junction with a herd of 400 of Buck Peter's stock to sell. Old Jess Granger's cattle company has a new rival, a firm run by Fred Barton and his partner Wayne Carter, who's good friend of daughter Judy Barton. Granger's hand Pete Foley picks a fight with Carter. Shots are fired at the stockyard at Barton; Hopalong finds a footprint clue and tracks down the killer: Carter. [Last episode recorded]

104 Santa Claus Rustlers

7 December 1950 15 March 1952 WB & AC
Shortly before Christmas, Hopalong and California are heading back to the Bar-20 after having driven cattle to Arizona. Hoppy's horse throws a shoe and California didn't pack any spares. They meet up with talkative Billy Stilwell, who's running away to find work so he can earn money to buy his family Christmas gifts. They meet bitter, lame ranch hand Johnny No-Name, who challenges them, saying they rustled cattle from the ranch. At the ranch house, Amos Stilwell says they're blameless. Other family members are Ma and Betty, who all are joint owners of the herd, says Stilwell. Johnny is the only hand, as he's the only one who would work for deferred wages on the small ranch. Spunky Betty says she could beat California at calf roping. She calls him "drizzle puss" and he says he'll shave his chin if he can't best her. He loses, not knowing she's won ribbons at rodeos. On the way to town, someone shoots at the cowboys. In town, they confront Johnny, who has new boots, a rifle and other items. Hoppy brushes it off, saying he'll see the young hand at the ranch. California fumes. "Hoppy, sometimes you make me so mad I could bite through a cinch ring," he sputters. The cowboys string popcorn, and set a trap. It turns out four trees show up; all the family members had sold off a few of their own head in order to buy gifts. Johnny shot warning shots to protect Betty, whom he'd learned had sold some head. California insists on singing, but has eaten too much popcorn and has a dry throat -- to Hoppy's great relief. [Perdham; Music: Albert Glasser] [Last original episode to air]

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29 April 1995

Jay Hickerson
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Hello:

Here's a copy of a log I've compiled on the Hopalong Cassidy radio show. I've seen logs of other programs, and found them dissatisfyingly sparse on information either about the show itself or about the stories. I can see why; it's no easy chore to accumulate a complete set of something! With Hoppy, it was manageable to put in full story information. It would be a daunting task with one of the longer-running shows.

I heard all but one of the shows. And I'd love to see a copy of an article in *TV-Radio Life* for May 1951. Maybe they'll turn up. But until then...

I'm planning to sell the log by mail, \$5 postpaid.

Best regards,

Bernie Drew